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Israel reports progress in Taba talks

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel reported progress Tuesday in efforts by U.S. special envoy Abraham Sofaer to resolve the Israeli-Egyptian border dispute over Taba and said direct talks with Egypt could resume very soon. A foreign ministry spokesman said Director-General David Kimche expressed "cautious optimism that the talks were moving towards an agreement." Mr. Sofaer, the State Department's legal adviser, is shuttling between Israel and Egypt to seek an agreed formula for submitting the issue to international arbitration. The two sides have been deadlocked on the question to be put to arbitrators. Israel held on to Taba, a tiny strip of beach, when it withdrew from the Sinai desert in 1982 under the terms of its 1979 treaty with Egypt.

Iran not to accept OPEC quota

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran will not accept an OPEC production ceiling of 17.6 million barrels a day worked out at the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting in Brioni, Yugoslavia, last month, the official news agency reported Tuesday. The Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted an unidentified Oil Ministry official as saying Iran's own allocation of 2.4 million barrels a day, was "unrealistic and untrue." The two figures were reported by the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), a weekly newsletter published in Cyprus and specialising in oil matters. MEES said the figures were based on a production quota distribution system worked out at Brioni by Indonesian Oil Minister Subroto and Nigerian Oil Minister Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman, the new OPEC president.

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King holds talks with Saudi leader

TAIF, Saudi Arabia (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia held talks Tuesday on the situation in the Middle East and Jordanian-Saudi relations, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported.

The talks were attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Jordanian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Mohammad Rasoul Al Keilani, Petra said. On the Saudi side, the talks were attended by Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, Saudi Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Al Sultan and several other senior officials.

Prior to the talks, King Fahd hosted a dinner in honour of King Hussein and the delegation accompanying him. It was attended by senior Saudi officials including Prince Sultan.

The King arrived here earlier in the day. He was received upon arrival by King Fahd and senior Saudi officials.

Officials said the King was seeking to coordinate Jordanian and Saudi efforts to settle Syrian-Iraqi differences and pave the way for convening the much-delayed Arab summit. A planned meeting on June 13 between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz and his Syrian counterpart Farouq Al Shara'a was called off at the last minute.

Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz was reportedly planning to launch a new bid to mediate Syrian-Iraqi differences. A report of Prince Abdullah's planned move was carried by the Abu Dhabi-based Al Ittihad newspaper. The paper quoted informed sources in Morocco in the report, which came during a visit to Rabat by Prince Abdullah in late June.

King Hussein was seen off upon departure from Amman on Tuesday by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Akef Al Fayez, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Cabinet members, senior Royal Court and government officials and Armed Forces officers.

Prince Mohammad was sworn in as Regent before the King's departure.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad is sworn in as Regent prior to His Majesty King Hussein's departure for Saudi Arabia on Tuesday (Petra photo)

Regent condoles Al Baqae'en family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the Regent, on Tuesday visited the home of Dr. Ghazi Al Baqae'en to condole the Baqae'en family on the death of Dr. Saleh Awad Al Baqae'en. The Regent was accompanied on the visit by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayez.

Qaboos leaves for Europe from Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id of Oman left Tuesday for an undisclosed European destination after a 24-hour private visit to Cairo. He was seen off by President Hosni Mubarak, with whom he held talks on Monday. Details were not disclosed, but the Semi-official Al Ahram newspaper said in an editorial both men were striving "to work out solutions to Arab crises."

Shultz decides against Mideast visit

WASHINGTON (R) — The State Department on Tuesday moved to squelch speculation Secretary of State George Shultz is planning a trip soon to the Middle East. "At this point the secretary does not feel the need for a trip," Mr. Shultz's spokesman, Bernard Kalb, told reporters. There had been speculation that Mr. Shultz might visit the region in connection with efforts to secure an Israeli-Egyptian agreement on sending to arbitration a dispute over sovereignty over Taba, a strip of land in the Sinai.

37 injured in Tehran explosion

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — A 15-kilogramme timebomb exploded in a tea shop in Tehran's busy Revolution Square during the morning rush hour on Tuesday, wounding at least 37 people, Iran's official news agency (IRNA) reported. The 7.40 a.m. blast ignited a 50-kilogramme canister of cooking gas in the shop, the agency said. The explosions destroyed the teahouse, three shops and a neighbouring bus depot, it said. Other building within a 50-metre radius were damaged, it added.

Top Soviet defence official in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — A senior Soviet air defence official has had talks here with Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas on developing military cooperation, Syrian media press said Tuesday. Newspapers said the Soviet deputy commander of air defence, Colonel-General Yevgeny Yurasov, met Lieutenant-General Tlas on Monday at the start of a two-day visit.

Celebrated U.S. admiral dies

WASHINGTON (AP) — Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, an engineer who designed and brought into use nuclear-powered ships in the U.S. navy, died Tuesday. He was 86. The navy, in a statement, said that Adm. Rickover died at 8:45 a.m. (1245 GMT) at his home in Arlington, Virginia.

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Gorbachev and Mitterrand discuss arms control, U.S.-Soviet summit

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and French President Francois Mitterrand, who is in Moscow with a message to the Kremlin from President Ronald Reagan, on Tuesday reviewed East-West topics, including a second superpower summit.

French and Soviet spokesmen denied Mr. Mitterrand had acted as a go-between for Mr. Reagan in his second day of talks with Mr. Gorbachev, but their comments indicated plans for a new summit had loomed large.

In New York on Friday, Mr. Reagan asked Mr. Mitterrand to explain his thinking to Mr. Gorbachev, who says he will only meet him again if an arms control agreement is in prospect. Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev first met in Geneva last November.

Mr. Reagan also asked the French leader, who has forged a good rapport with Mr. Gorbachev, to brief him by letter on the Kremlin's views after his three-day state visit.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said after Tuesday's session of nearly three hours that both France and the Soviet Union wanted another superpower summit.

But he added: "The problem is that the atmosphere ... is not ready for the summit meeting to be fruitful and lead to positive results." This has been the Soviet view for months.

Western diplomatic sources said Mr. Mitterrand understood the main obstacle to an arms accord for Mr. Reagan was verifying compliance. Mr. Gorbachev's main concern remained U.S. plans for a "star wars" defence, they said.

The Kremlin's latest arms plan, greeted relatively positively by the White House, proposes allowing some research on "star wars," officially called the strategic defence initiative. It also suggests a range of weapons cuts in return for extension of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty.

Mr. Mitterrand shares the Kremlin's opposition to space weapons, but has rejected a Gorbachev offer to negotiate curbs on the French nuclear force. He repeated the point in a Kremlin speech Monday night that was reprinted in Tuesday's Pravda.

Diplomats said as the only major Western leader to talk regularly with Mr. Gorbachev, Mr. Mitterrand was playing a useful role as an intermediary between Moscow and Washington.

But they noted there were frequent direct exchanges between the superpowers and France's help was not essential.

Some said both Washington and Moscow were probably not averse to flattering the French leader as he sought to assert his role as a statesman with an eye to possible re-election.

Mr. Mitterrand's trip returns a visit by Mr. Gorbachev to Paris last October. He last held talks in the Kremlin in 1984. Moscow considers it has a special relationship with France, among members of the Atlantic alliance.

Gerasimov and French spokeswoman Michele Gendreau-Massaloux said the content of Tuesday's talks, held with only note-takers and translators, would remain secret.

Mr. Gorbachev refused a suggestion by Mr. Mitterrand to bring Foreign Ministers Eduard Shevardnadze and Jean-Bernard Raimond into their session because this would hinder their dialogue, Gendreau-Massaloux said.

The atmosphere had been marked "by an extraordinary directness and comprehension," Gendreau-Massaloux said.

Iraq reports thousands of Iranian casualties in thwarted offensive

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Tuesday its forces had crushed a new Iranian attack in the Mehran area of the south-central Gulf war front, killing thousands of Iranian soldiers.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a military spokesman as saying a number of Iranian officers were killed, including a high ranking commander, but he gave no further details.

The spokesman said the attack was launched Tuesday morning and the Iranians threw in reinforcements after sustaining heavy losses.

Iraqi warplanes, helicopter gunships and heavy artillery played a major role in annihilating the greater part of the attacking force, he said.

Iraq said Monday it had crushed another Iranian attack in the same area, some 170 kilometres southeast of Baghdad.

Heavy fighting has continued since Iran launched an offensive eight days ago and retook the devastated border town of Mehran after a six-week Iraqi occupation.

Iraq said last Wednesday Iranian troops had entered the town and Iraqi forces had pulled back to prepared positions on the border.

Baghdad has made no mention so far of Iranian claims that its troops had thrust across the border into Iraqi territory.

As usual, the Iranians appeared to have mounted Tuesday's attack well before dawn to evade Iraq's fighter-bombers. The Iraqis, with mostly Soviet-supplied warplanes, have long controlled the skies.

The Iranians, critically short of spares, have an estimated 70 serviceable combat planes against Iraq's estimated 500 fighters and bombers.

Tehran Radio said the latest attack was launched from the city of Karaj, 40 kilometres west of Tehran.

The radio quoted a communique as saying 155 Iraqi prisoners were taken, including the deputy commander of Iraq's 71st brigade and five other senior officers.

It said two deputy brigade commanders were killed and the Iraqi 71st, 72nd, 93rd and 113th brigades broken in the fighting.

The Iraqi News Agency denied the Iranian claims to have dealt serious blows to the four brigades, saying they were not based on the Mehran front.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz called on Tuesday on all countries to isolate Iran from the world community for continuing the Gulf war.

Mr. Aziz was speaking before a mass meeting on the second anniversary of an international conference in Baghdad on the impact of the war, now in its sixth year, on world peace and security.

He said all countries, international organisations and political parties should adopt "frank and clear attitudes towards the party which insists on the war and to isolate it from the world community and cease supplying it with weapons, military equipment and technical expertise until it succumbs to the will of peace."

Mr. Aziz accused Iran following the recapture of Mehran of claiming illusory victories. Iraq was determined to foil any future aggression on its territory and teach the Iranian regime new lessons, he said.

Bourguiba sacks Mzali, names Sfar as premier

TUNIS (R) — President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia on Tuesday sacked Prime Minister Mohammad Mzali, his constitutional heir, and replaced him with Economy and Finance Minister Rachid Sfar, Tunisia's official TAP news agency said.

Mr. Mzali had been prime minister and secretary-general of the ruling Socialist Destourian Party since April 1980.

Only three weeks ago, the 82-year-old president had confirmed Mr. Mzali as his successor, squashing rumours that Mr. Mzali was on the way out after a series of government shake-ups this year which had reduced the prime minister's power and influence.

"President Bourguiba has decided to dismiss Mohammad Mzali as prime minister and secretary general of the party and to appoint Rachid Sfar in his place," the TAP announcement said.

Planning Minister Ismail Khelil was appointed planning and finance minister, the announcement said.

Mohammad Mzali

S. African black union challenges emergency

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's black trade unionists, already mounting industrial protests over mass detentions under emergency rule, on Tuesday challenged the validity of the nationwide state of emergency in the courts.

After a wave of strikes on the country's economically vital gold and diamond mines in the past few days over detentions, the main black metalworkers' union argued in a Durban court that the emergency regulations should have been put before parliament.

The Metal and Allied Workers' Union (MAWU) is bringing the case against President P.W. Botha, who it says should have put the state of emergency on the parliamentary agenda within 14 days of its declaration on June 12.

Liberal opposition parliamentarian Peter Gastrow testified in documents filed with the court during a brief hearing on Tuesday that it was not put before parliament.

Amid the mounting union opposition to the emergency, Mr. Botha's office announced he had agreed to his second urgent meeting in a month with Nobel Peace Prize-winner Bishop Desmond Tutu.

In London, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, the European Community's peace envoy to South Africa, has fixed a date for a crucial meeting with President Botha.

Mr. Howe on Monday postponed a visit to South Africa scheduled for this week after Pretoria said that Mr. Botha and other senior officials were too busy to see him.

Howe: S. Africa accepts moving away from apartheid, page 8

Israeli expert warns of possible war

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's leading security policy think-tank warned on Tuesday that acts of "terrorism" or a clash in Lebanon could trigger a war between Israel and Syria.

Presenting the annual report "Middle East military balance" of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, retired General Aharon Yariv said Syria posed the only immediate military threat to Israel and was expanding its forces.

The report said: "Although a conscious Syrian decision to go to war with Israel is unlikely, there is a chance that terrorist incidents or a clash in Lebanon could escalate into large-scale fighting."

Gen. Yariv, a former head of military intelligence, said a conflict could be triggered by a concentration of Syrian forces between Damascus and the Golan Heights, or by a Syrian-backed attack on an Israeli target abroad.

He pointed to two recent attempts to place suitcase bombs aboard planes of Israel's El Al airline in London and Madrid this year, which Israel linked to Syria.

"Imagine that, God forbid, our plane crashes and all are killed and the evidence is, as it was in these cases, pointing the finger at Syria," he said.

Syria on Tuesday strongly condemned the bomb explosion at El Al Israeli airlines counter at Madrid airport that was blamed on a Syrian-backed Palestinian faction.

The Syrian Arab News Agency quoted an authoritative government source as saying such attacks are "counter-productive and serve imperialist and Zionist plots to link national struggle with terrorism."

It was the first official Syrian reaction to the June 26 attack.

It was the second attempt to bomb an El Al airliner in recent weeks. El Al security men foiled an earlier attempt to smuggle a bomb aboard a Jumbo Jet in London.

Tension between Israel and Syria mounted earlier this year when President Hafez Al Assad raised the prospect of a possible recapture of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and Israel expressed concern about new Syrian tank emplacements in South Lebanon. But it has since largely subsided.

Karami envoy states case in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — An envoy for Lebanon's Prime Minister Rashid Karami said Tuesday his government was paralysed amid differences between the premier and President Amin Gemayel over ways to end the civil war.

Samih Al Baba, director of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry's political department, said on arrival here on Monday Mr. Karami wanted the president and government to resign as a first step towards a solution. Mr. Gemayel however, rejected this, he added.

Mr. Baba carried a message for the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, which he said outlined proposals by Mr. Karami on ways to end the crisis.

This was passed on during talks on Tuesday with the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

He also met Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who said afterwards the envoy was seeking the Arab World's assistance in resolving Lebanon's problems and ending its sectarian conflict.

Waldheim urges Austrian unity in inaugural speech

VIENNA (Agencies) — President Kurt Waldheim on Tuesday condemned anti-Semitism and called on Austrians to bridge racial and religious differences with tolerance.

In his first speech as head of state, Dr. Waldheim said each Austrian must "consider and treat each of our fellow citizens as brother and sister — regardless of which race, which religion and which conviction he holds."

For months, Dr. Waldheim, who was elected June 8, has been the target of accusations that he was implicated in war crimes as a World War II lieutenant in Adolf Hitler's army.

Austrian Jews complained of a growth in anti-Semitism during the campaign, and Dr. Waldheim's comments appeared designed to smooth over the enmities.

Dr. Waldheim assumed office shortly after 11 a.m., at the ornate Reichsratsaal of the parliament building, in a ceremony attended by politicians, diplomats and other dignitaries.

About 300 metres away, three Americans and three Austrians held up a sign saying "no to the war criminal president." Police removed the placard and formed a circle to separate them from the pro-Waldheim crowd that grew quickly from about 40 to 15,000 as he made his way to the Hofburg, site of the presidential offices.

Most of the countries represented in Austria sent ambassadors to the ceremonies, but absent were the chief diplomats of the United States, Israel and the Soviet Union.

U.S. Ambassador Ronald Lauder and Mikhail C. Efremov, his Soviet counterpart, had announced weeks ago that they would be absent because of prior commitments.

Israel, the country that has been most critical of Dr. Waldheim's election, recalled its ambassador, Michael Elizur, for consultations after Dr. Waldheim won office.

Representing the United States was charge Felix S. Bloch, the second-ranking American diplomat. For the Soviets, it was Vassily A. Kupzov, Mr. Bloch's counterpart.

A group of young Zionists demonstrated at the Austrian embassy in Tel Aviv and the Israeli parliament viewed a film on the Nazi "holocaust" in protest against Dr. Waldheim was sworn in as president.

Egypt cool towards Sudanese call

CAIRO (R) — Egypt on Tuesday officially shrugged off a pledge by Sudan to revise a 10-year-old military pact between the two countries.

"We did not ask for the agreement. If the Sudanese side wants to cancel it, we have no objection," Osama Baz, chief political adviser to President Hosni Mubarak, told reporters.

But Foreign Ministry sources said privately the government appeared angry — at a time when Cairo was trying to improve ties with Khartoum — at the pledge on Monday by Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi to revise treaties with other countries.

The mutual defence pact was signed when Jaafar Numeiri, ousted in April 1985, was president of Sudan.

Mr. Mahdi's comment in a policy statement also appeared to apply to a military protocol signed a year ago between Sudan and Libya, Egypt's rival for influence in Khartoum.

Sudan goes to Egyptian court to seek Numeiri's extradition

CAIRO (R) — Sudanese lawyers went to court here on Tuesday to demand extradition of ex-president Jaafar Numeiri, who enjoys political asylum in Egypt and is wanted in Khartoum to face treason and corruption charges.

They presented 10 documents to back their case in the Cairo administrative court, which agreed to tackle the politically-sensitive case but postponed hearings for a month.

In its suit, the Sudanese lawyers syndicate challenged the right of the Egyptian government to grant asylum to the 56-year-old Numeiri, who was in Cairo on his way back from a visit to the United States when he was overthrown in April 1985.

Egypt has turned down repeated Sudanese requests for his extradition to face charges

Mr. Numeiri's presence here has clouded ties with Sudan's new rulers, but they have said they will leave the issue to the Egyptian courts.

An Egyptian advocate acting for the Sudanese syndicate — only Egyptian lawyers are allowed to conduct cases in the courts — said the documents tabled on Tuesday showed that the ousted president was not a political refugee.

He told Reuters the plaintiff sought a postponement because Sudan's Attorney-General Abdul Mahmoud Saleh was coming to Cairo soon with more "incriminating evidence".

The Jordan Times' new telephone numbers: 667171-6 and 670141-4

Syrian commandos step up patrols in W. Beirut

Security tightened at Beirut airport

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Joint Syrian-Lebanese forces intensified patrols in Muslim west Beirut Tuesday as security men threw a cordon around the country's international airport, south of the capital.

Witnesses said Syrian commandos and Lebanese soldiers also reinforced positions in the once-fashionable Hamra shopping district, which has sprung back to life since the peace plan began 11 days ago.

"This is the first time I have used my new car in the area," said resident Sami Mokbel, as traffic clogged the thoroughfare and shoppers surged along the pavements.

Some 500 Syrian soldiers and security men have joined nearly 1,000 Lebanese troops in armoured patrols, steadily expanding the Damascus-backed plan to curb militia anarchy.

The Beirut As Safir daily said the joint security force would extend to areas adjoining the battle-scarred strip, known as the "green line," dividing eastern and western sectors.

Brig. Sami Al Sheikha, security chief at Beirut International Airport, said Lebanese troops now patrolled the airport perimeter, nearby streets and had closed off all side-entrances.

The brigadier issued a statement saying his security units had also set up checkpoints on the highway linking the airport with the Lebanese capital, seven kilometres to the north. The highway passes through sprawling Shi'ite suburbs.

Only Lebanon's Middle East Airlines has maintained flights in and out of the airport since several foreign airlines ceased operations following a steady deterioration in security.

One Beirut travel agent told Reuters he had heard reports that some foreign airlines might resume operations soon.

Meanwhile, Shi'ite Amal chief Nabih Berri, one of Syria's closest allies in Lebanon, told newspapers the peace plan was "a prelude to widespread security and peace throughout Lebanon and a source of satisfaction for Palestinians in Beirut."

About 160 people died in tank and artillery battles between Shi'ite and Palestinian fighters at the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra, Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh until Syria sponsored a truce announced on June 14.

Three United Nations trucks carried food supplies into Shatila Tuesday, U.N. sources said.

Security sources said tighter control of Beirut streets had helped recover 200,000 Lebanese pounds ($5,000) seized at gunpoint in Hamra Monday. Three men had been arrested, they added.

Newly deployed Syrian troops will try soon to free American, French and British hostages held by Shi'ite Muslim and Palestinian gunmen in Lebanon, the independent Beirut newspaper An Nahar reported Tuesday.

An Nahar quoted an unidentified official as saying that the Syrian army's return to west Beirut was partly aimed at releasing the captives and "destroying terrorist bases" in Lebanon by next October.

"If Syria succeeds in achieving this, it will regain its leading role in the Middle East by holding both the Lebanese and Palestinian cards" in any future negotiations, An Nahar said.

"The release of the American, French and British hostages requires from their governments to give Syria a free hand to determine the ways to bring this about," An Nahar's columnist Emile Khoury wrote.

"It also requires from Syria to have a tight military grip on areas serving as bases and passageways for terrorist and kidnap operations. Syria has begun doing this," the columnist added.

Five Americans, seven Frenchmen and two Britons are missing in Lebanon as well as one Italian, one Irishman and one South Korean.

Pro-Iranian Shi'ite groups claim they hold the five Americans and four of the Frenchmen. An underground group believed linked to Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal claimed the March 25, 1985 abduction of British journalist Alec Collett.

No group had claimed responsibility for another British and French kidnap victims.

Another Abu Nidal-affiliated group had announced it killed one other American and two other British hostages in retaliation for the U.S. air raid on Libya last April 15. Their gunshot bodies were found off a mountain highway east of Beirut on April 17.

Justice Minister Nabih Berri was quoted in the Beirut press as saying Muslim religious and political leaders as well as Prime Minister Rashid Karami had requested the dispatch of Syrian troops.

Mr. Berri, who heads the mainstream Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia, was reacting to criticism of the Syrian move attributed to Falangist President Amin Gemayel, several Beirut newspapers said.

Mr. Gemayel had contended that the Syrian intervention was not requested by, or coordinated with the Lebanese army command.

Premier Karami, a Sunni Muslim, had declared support for the Syrian military presence, saying "troops from sister Syria are on a peacekeeping mission, helping Lebanese regulars to re-instate government authority in west Beirut."

The western sector has been plagued by assassinations, gunpoint kidnappings, aircraft hijacking and bank robberies during the 27-month reign of Druze and Shi'ite militias.

Mr. Berri was quoted as calling on Arab governments to reopen their embassies in west Beirut. He said he was "100 per cent confident that the current security plan will work, thanks to the Syrian military participation."

Police said Syrian and Lebanese troops were required under the 5-day-old security plan to provide protection to key government ministries, banks, embassies and educational centres as well as the airport.

The Falangist "Lebanese Forces" militia's Radio Free Lebanon described plans to extend Syrian patrols and checkpoints as a "further turn of the screw on Lebanese decision-making."

'More efficiency could save East Jerusalem power firm'

By Bernard Josephs
The Jerusalem Post

THE ARAB-OWNED Jerusalem District Electric Company (JDEC) could be saved from financial collapse if its management would take far-reaching efficiency measures, an Israeli report contended.

The report, prepared for Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, said the company should close its Shuafat power plant and take steps to reduce the great amount of electricity it loses from its grid.

The future of the JDEC has become a political issue in recent months, with its chairman, former Jordanian Defence Minister Anwar Nusseibeh saying that Israel is trying to hamper its development. Israeli officials have denied the charge.

The report, by economist Dr. Dan Givoli, contends the JDEC, which owes the Israel Electric Corporation (IEC) some $18 million, could immediately cut its deficit by $3.4m a year by closing its Shuafat generator.

The running of the plant could not be justified economically, he said. It produced only 4 per cent of the electricity used by the company, the rest being bought from the IEC.

Givoli pointed out that the JDEC loses some 14 per cent of its electricity, "an unacceptable figure by both local and world standards."

If the losses, due largely to the poor condition of its equipment, could be cut to 12 per cent, the company's running deficit would be wiped out.

Reducing losses to 5 per cent would allow the JDEC to make an operating profit of $1.4m. a year, said the report.

The company, which provides power to some 100,000 customers in the West Bank and East Jerusalem — including several Jewish neighbourhoods on the periphery of the capital — claims that the IEC overcharges it for electricity.

Last month the high court gave Energy Minister Shahal 75 days to show cause why he should not reduce the price that the JDEC pays.

But, the report says the accusation of overcharging is unfounded. The price is based on the average cost of electricity in Israel, insists Givoli, adding that there are no grounds for accusing the IEC of "discrimination" against the East Jerusalem company.

In fact, he continues, the company enjoys lower prices than could be expected, considering the amount of power it purchases and the times at which it requires it.

Shamir admits he discussed killing of hijackers

TEL AVIV (AP) — Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, accused of authorising the beating deaths of two Palestinian prisoners, acknowledged he discussed killing hijackers but said he never ordered the 1984 slayings, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

Shamir also said the two captured prisoners were beaten by soldiers, policemen and secret service agents at the scene, and it would be impossible to determine who caused their deaths.

In the interview published by the Hadashot newspaper, Shamir responded to a claim by the head of the Shin Bet security service, Avraham Shalom, that Shalom had "authorisation and permission" to kill two captured Palestinians who helped hijack a bus in April 1984.

"It wasn't a directive. It was a conversation," Mr. Shamir said when asked if he had given blanket approval for killing anyone caught trying to take hostages. "It wasn't a change of policy."

Hadashot indicated the conversation between Shamir and his security chief took place shortly after Shamir became prime minister in September 1983, and several months before the bus was seized near Tel Aviv.

Shamir said he had not meant to approve killing captured prisoners. "That doesn't mean you have to catch someone who escapes or gets away and kill him. You have to try in battle, but that doesn't mean to kill under all circumstances," he said.

Shalom has been accused of giving the direct order to kill two handcuffed captives shortly after soldiers stormed the hijacked bus in the Gaza Strip, killing two other hijackers during their rescue operation. Shalom also was accused of engineering a cover-up in later investigations.

Shamir called the slaying of the two captured hijackers a lynching, but he said the confusion at the scene made it impossible to say who was responsible.

"What did I know? I knew that there was a lynching. The two guys were hit by all kinds of people. Soldiers, policemen, Shin Bet people — how do you determine with certainty who hit more or who caused the deaths?" he said.

Shamir, the leader of the right-wing Likud Bloc in the ruling coalition, has opposed left-wing demands to set up a new inquiry commission to investigate political responsibility for the affair, saying it could expose secrets that might hinder the Shin Bet's operations.

"Do you know what? The public doesn't want to know anything. They are fed up. They don't want to know who killed (the hijackers). They are not interested at all. What do they care?" he said in the newspaper interview.

Shamir denied accusations of helping Shalom cover up the Shin Bet's role in the killing. "I didn't know they were bluffing Zorea," he said, referring to an inquiry headed by Meir Zorea.

Asked if he felt "pushed against the wall" by demands for another investigation, Shamir said "I'm never pushed. I'm not built for that. You can't push me when I'm certain that I'm right."

U.S. 'should develop closer cooperation with Israel'

By Bill Gertz
The Washington Times

WASHINGTON — The United States should develop closer strategic and military cooperation with Israel to help deter Soviet aggression in the Mediterranean Sea and the Gulf, according to a new policy study released on July 7 by the conservative Heritage Foundation research centre.

"Washington should integrate Israel discretely into the global anti-Soviet defence system to strengthen deterrence of the Soviet Union in the strategic area between NATO's southern flank and the Persian Gulf," senior Heritage policy analyst James A. Phillips, the author of the study, concluded.

Mr. Phillips' report cautions that Israeli-American strategic cooperation is not a "panacea" for blunting Soviet power in the Middle East, but "without it, the world will be a more dangerous place."

Mr. Phillips also argues that closer cooperation will further regional peace since U.S. military backing "may discourage Arab states from waging war against Israel."

For the Israelis, closer strategic cooperation will offset the growing Soviet presence in Syria and "may force Damascus to rethink its goal of establishing a 'Greater Syria'."

The United States first began formal military cooperation with Israel in 1983, when President Reagan signed still-secret National Security Decision Directive III outlining joint planning, exercises and the pre-positioning of military equipment in Israel, the report states.

The directive created a Joint Political Military Group composed of working-level officials who meet twice a year to hold "a strategic dialogue," according to the report....

Egypt holds 260 striking train engineers

CAIRO (AP) — Police broke up a strike by train engineers and arrested about 260 of them but hundreds of passengers remained stranded at Cairo's main railroad terminal, the chairman of the railroad authority said Tuesday.

Mohammad Maher Al Morsi told the Associated Press that he expected traffic at the terminal to return to normal by Wednesday because 200 of those detained would be released later Tuesday after agreeing to return to work immediately.

He said the others would remain in custody for further investigations. Interior Ministry officials refused to comment on the arrests that were made under an emergency law in force for nearly seven years.

The law bans unauthorised demonstrations, strikes and public gatherings and gives police powers of search and arrest without warrant. It was enacted in October 1981 immediately after Muslim extremists assassinated President Anwar Sadat at a military parade in Cairo.

Mr. Morsi said Transportation Minister Suleiman Metwalli had approved a compromise on some of the engineers' demands, ordering their fringe benefits increased by 800,000 pounds ($600,000) to 2.3 million pounds ($1.8 million).

Of the 5,250 train engineers and their assistants nationwide, only those detained had gone on strike in the Cairo terminal affecting outgoing trains but not incoming traffic, officials at Mr. Morsi's office said.

The strike began at 1500 GMT Monday. Sources at the Engineers' Union said the strikers' demands included the enactment of a higher pay scale, a fivefold increase in bonuses paid for punctuality and distances covered and the establishment of an insurance fund.

Mr. Morsi said that the transportation minister also had instructed the railroad authority to try and resolve the insurance issue as soon as possible. The pay scale demand was "out of the question," he said.

"The minister agreed to increase the engineers' bonuses as much as he could, but the problem is that they are making huge financial demands that are just beyond our capability," said Galal Fahmy, deputy chairman of the authority.

"They are only about 5,000 compared to a total of 80,000 workers in the railroad authority," Mr. Fahmi said. "They are very specialised so they think that they can twist our arm."

Mr. Fahmi said military buses and trucks were being operated to temporarily replace train services to Cairo suburbs.

Chairman Morsi said the Train Engineers Union had made other demands last December, many of which had been granted. He said these included a threefold increase in travel allowances costing the budget an extra one million pounds ($750,000).

Greece to cut Libyan mission in Athens

ATHENS (Agencies) — Greece has decided to reduce the number of diplomats at the Libyan mission in Athens, government spokesman Anthony Kourtis said Tuesday.

Mr. Kourtis gave no details of the reduction, saying a Foreign Ministry statement would be made later. But he did say that Libya had been informed of the action.

Greek newspapers reported that the more than 50 Libyans at the mission would be reduced by a third.

The United States State Department reacted angrily in April when Greece announced there was no direct evidence of Libyan involvement in attacks.

Athens said at the time it would not immediately implement a European Community (EC) decision to reduce Libyan missions and curb the activities of Libyan diplomats.

There was further American anger against Greece last month when Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou told parliament that violent acts by Palestinians as part of a liberation struggle did not constitute terrorism.

State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb called the remarks "baseless, unhelpful and indeed harmful to Western efforts to achieve an effective response to international terrorism."

Western diplomats here said the latest Greek decision to reduce the number of Libyan diplomats was bound to please Washington and Athens's EC neighbours.

Athens has been the odd man out in the past on action against Libya, mainly because of its close ties with Arab nations.

But the diplomats pointed out that Greece's image has suffered in the West as a consequence and security fears about Athens airport and the region has resulted in a drop of about 70 per cent in American tourists to Greece so far this year, travel agency officials said.

Only five Libyans are officially accredited to the Greek government but diplomats said more than 50 people at the mission enjoyed diplomatic immunity.

Newspapers quoted a Greek official as saying that eventually only five will remain.

Asked at a briefing for foreign correspondents if Greece was "expelling" the Libyans, Mr. Kourtis said it was better to use the words "reduction in representation."

The Athens newspaper Eleftherotypia reported that some Libyans had already left quietly and others were leaving Tuesday, but this could not be officially confirmed.

An official at the Libyan mission here told Reuters there was no immediate reaction. "We have to wait for the official announcement," he said.

In a statement to parliament, Public Order Minister Antonis Drossoyannis dismissed charges made last month by members of the conservative opposition New Democracy Party that two Libyan diplomats are "known terrorists."

"We have no evidence indicating that among the accredited Libyan diplomats are persons who are involved in terrorist actions or have been found to be smuggling arms," Mr. Drossoyannis said.

Man gets 2 years for arms-to-Iran plot

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — The key figure in a plot to ship restricted military electronics equipment to Iran has been handed a two-year prison sentence by a federal judge.

Metin Tanir, 51, president of a Canadian import-export company, was sentenced Monday by U.S. district Judge Harold Ackerman.

Authorities said the equipment was being sought by the Iranian government to bolster the defence of its capital city of Tehran against air attacks in the continuing war with Iraq.

Tenir and two other defendants were charged last December with conspiring to violate the U.S. Arms Export Control Act, which bars the shipment of military technology without Department of State approval.

"You were willing to take the risks," Ackerman told Tenir. "You wanted to make the big money."

The judge said that without the intervention of Tenir, the scheme would have never developed.

Last week, Tenir said he never told the other two defendants in the case that the alleged deal violated the U.S. law.

In March, Tenir, a Montreal resident, pleaded guilty to conspiring to smuggle the electronics equipment and radar components.

He also agreed to testify as a government witness against the two other defendants.

Ackerman permitted the other two defendants to plead guilty to reduced sentences. He sentenced them to time served and ordered them freed.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
17:00 ... Kovan
17:20 ... Om and Cheep
17:30 ... Cartoons
18:00 ... Documentary
18:40 ... Brewster
19:10 ... Local Programme
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... Local programme
21:10 ... Documentary
22:30 ... Wrestling
23:00 ... News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 French programme: Documentary
18:30 ... French series
19:00 ... News in French
19:15 ... Documentary
19:30 ... News in Hebrew
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... Three's Company
21:10 ... Believe it or not
22:00 ... News in English
22:20 ... Sword of Honour

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 9560 KHz, SW
Tel: 774111-19

07:00 ... Light Music
07:30 ... Newsdesk
08:00 ... Morning Show
10:00 ... News Summary
10:05 ... Morning Show Contd.
11:00 ... Pop Session
11:30 ... Songs from Movies
12:00 ... News Summary
12:05 ... Pop Session Contd.
13:00 ... News Summary
13:05 ... Pop Session
14:00 ... News Bulletin
14:10 ... Instrumentals
14:15 ... Your Health
15:00 ... Concert Hour
16:00 ... News Summary
16:05 ... Instrumentals
16:30 ... Old Favourites
17:00 ... Jordan Weekly
17:30 ... Pop Session
18:00 ... News Summary
18:05 ... Over a Cup of Tea
19:30 ... Music
19:00 ... News Desk
19:30 ... Date with a Star
20:00 ... Evening Show
21:00 ... News Summary
21:05 ... Evening Show Contd.
21:55 ... News Summary
22:00 ... Evening Show Continued
23:00 ... News Summary
23:05 ... Evening Show Continued
23:57 ... News Headlines
24:00 ... Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1323 KHz

07:00 Newsdesk **07:30** On the Box **07:40** Book Choice **07:45** Financial News **07:55** Reflections **08:00** World News **08:09** 24 Hours: News Summary **08:30** Report on Religion **08:45** The World Today **09:00** Newsdesk **09:30** Meridian **10:00** World News **10:09** 24 Hours: News Summary **10:30** The Muse at the Movies **11:00** World News **11:09** Reflections **11:15** Classical Record Review **11:30** Brain of Britain 1986 **12:00** World News **12:09** British Press Review **12:15** The World Today **12:30** Financial News; Look Ahead **12:40** Look Ahead **12:45** The Waltz King **13:00** News Summary; Omnibus **13:30** My Music **14:00** World News **14:09** News about Britain **14:15** On the Box **14:25** A Letter from Wales **14:30** Meridian **15:00** Radio Newsreel **15:15** Nature Notebook **15:25** The Farming World **15:45** Sports Round-up **16:00** World News **16:09** 24 Hours: News Summary **16:30** The Muse at the Movies **17:00** News Summary; Outlook **17:45** Report on Religion **18:00** Radio Newsreel **18:15** Ships from Seven Seas **18:30** Two Cheers for June **19:00** World News **19:09** Commentary **19:15** Counterpoint **19:45** The World Today **20:00** World News **20:09** A Letter from Wales **20:15** The Piano Roll **20:30** Top Twenty **20:00** Book Choice **20:45** Sports Round-up **21:00** Newsdesk **21:30** Outlook **22:00** News Summary; Outlook **22:39** Stock Market Report **22:45** Good Books **23:00** World News **23:09** 24 Hours: **23:30** Assignment **24:00** News Summary; In the Cage **00:15** Album Time **00:45** Recording of the Week **01:00** World News

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 Hz

07:00 News. Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listener's Questions, Science Reports. Sports News at 30 minutes past the hour. **12:00** News **12:10** Newsline **12:30** Music USA **19:00** News **19:10** Focus **19:30** Special English News & Features **20:00** News **20:10** Newsline **20:30** Magazine Show **21:00** News **21:10** Focus **21:30** Special English News & Features **22:00** News **22:10** Newsline America **22:30** Music USA **23:00** News & Editorial **23:15** Music USA Jazz **24:00** News **00:10** VOA World Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition by Fa'ek Hassan at the national art gallery (until July 10).

* A French exhibition entitled "La mode, les modes, la rue" at the French Cultural Centre (until July 24).

* Indian book exhibition at the University of Jordan Library (until July 12).

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre . Tel: 661026/7
American Centre ... 644371
American Centre library ... 641520
British Council ... 636147/8
French Cultural Centre ... 637009
Goethe Institute ... 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre ... 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre ... 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre ... 639777
Haya Arts Centre ... 665195
Hussein Youth City ... 667181/6
Y.W.C.A. ... 641793
Y.W.M.A. ... 664251
Amman Municipal Library ... 637111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 637169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Ammon Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 678906.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534.

Evangelical Lathern Church Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 811295.

Rainbow Congregation (International, Interdenominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabal Amman, Tel. 606974.

PRAYER TIMES

03:56 ... Fajr
05:36 ... (Sunrise) Duha
12:41 ... Dhuhr
16:22 ... 'Asr
19:46 ... Maghreb
21:25 ... 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

08:20 ... Karachi (PK)
09:05 ... Aqaba (RJ)
09:45 ... Dhahran (RJ)
10:30 ... Kuwait (RJ)
10:30 ... Sana'a (RJ)
10:45 ... Jeddah (RJ)
10:45 ... Cairo (RJ)
10:50 ... Dhahran (RJ)
10:50 ... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:55 ... Dhahran (RJ)
11:30 ... Bahrain (RJ)
11:35 ... Cairo (MS)
12:30 ... Istanbul, Annakia (TK)
13:00 ... Baghdad (IA)
13:40 ... Bahrain (GF)
14:35 ... Kuwait (KU)
16:10 ... Jeddah (SV)
16:45 ... Tripoli (LN)
17:55 ... Larnaca (RJ)
18:00 ... Cairo (RJ)
18:30 ... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:45 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
18:30 ... London, Belgrade (RJ)
19:05 ... Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:25 ... Beirut (ME)
19:35 ... Istanbul (RJ)
19:45 ... Bangkok (RJ)
21:00 ... Damascus (IY)
21:45 ... Damascus (PK)
01:30 ... Baghdad (RJ)
17:45 ... Kuwait (LN)
20:30 ... Kuwait (RJ)
21:15 ... Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 ... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:00 ... Baghdad (RJ)
21:40 ... Dhahran (RJ)
22:00 ... Sana'a (IY)
22:15 ... Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:30 ... Cairo (RJ)
22:35 ... Karachi (PK)

DEPARTURES

06:20 ... Frankfurt (LH)
07:00 ... Aqaba (RJ)
09:20 ... Athens, Rome (PK)
10:35 ... Damascus Rome (AZ)
11:30 ... Damascus (IY)
12:00 ... Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:20 ... Cairo (MS)
12:45 ... Larnaca, Zurich (SR)
12:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
13:00 ... Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
13:00 ... London (RJ)
13:30 ... Antakia, Istanbul (TK)
13:45 ... Istanbul (RJ)
14:00 ... Baghdad (IA)
14:00 ... Larnaca (RJ)
15:00 ... Doha (GF)
15:35 ... Kuwait (KU)
17:40 ... Jeddah (SV)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

— Lanka Ajitha
— Ibn Shuhid

Amin Kawar and Sons Company, Tel: 622324-9 at your service.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Tuesday rates
Local sell/buy rates in fils

Belgian franc	77.A/	78.4
Dutch guilder	141/	143.2
French franc	49.6/	50.2
Italian lira	23.1/	23.3
Japanese yen (for 100)	214.8/	217.9
Swedish crown	48.8/	49.4
Swiss franc	194.9/	197.5
U.K. sterling pound	530.A/	536.8
U.S. dollar	346.2/	349.5
W. German mark	158.8/	160.9

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair, with northwesterly moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

Amman	16/30
Aqaba	23/35
Deserts	17/36
Jordan Valley	22/36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate ... 891228
Amman civil defence ... 198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid ... 271293, 273131
Civil Defence Quweismeh ... 770733
Civil Defence Deir Alla ... 57306
Ambulance ... 193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade ... 198
First aid ... 630341
Blood bank ... 778308
Civil Defence rescue ... 661111
Fire headquarters ... 622090-3
Police rescue ... 192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters ... 639141
Traffic police ... 896390/1
Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881
Municipal water complaints 771125/8
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53330/60

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre ... 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amm . 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amman ... 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity ... 642362
Mallhas, J. Amman ... 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani ... 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital ... 669131
University Hospital ... 845845/65
Al-Mussher Hospital ... 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali ... 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali ... 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mohajreen ... 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ... 775111/26
Anny, Maria ... 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital ... 602240/50
Amal Hospital ... 674155

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Issa Al Najjar ... 510640
Dr. Nabil Marydi ... 665898
Firas pharmacy ... 661912
Al Salam pharmacy ... 636730
Naitoukh pharmacy ... 623672

TAXIS:
University taxi ... 661001
Habi taxi ... 811406
Banj taxi ... 641299
Aafour taxi ... 623230
Abu Hedar taxi ... 813364
Al Shaheed taxi ... 621091

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Ossari ... 272032

ZARQA:
Dr. Tarq Hijjawi ... 986443
Fadi pharmacy ... (—)

GENERAL

Jordan Television ... 773111/19
Radio Jordan ... 774111/19
Ministry of Tourism ... 642311
Hotel complaints ... 666412
Price complaints ... 661176
Telephone Information ... 12
Jordan and Middle East calls ... 10
Overseas calls ... 17
Repair service ... 11

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in fils per kg.

Apple (local)	300/250	Lemon	220/160
Apple (green)	450/400	Lettuce (per one)	140/100
Apple (American & French)	430/380	Marrow	200/150
Apricots	320/280	Mallow	80/ 50
Banana	300/260	Melon (Sweet)	200/150
Banana (Makamaar)	250/220	Onion (dry)	80/ 50
Beans	330/280	Okra	370/320
Cabbage	80/ 50	Oranges (local and Valencia)	160/120
Carrot (yellow)	160/120	Parsley	70/ 70
Cauliflower	130/100	Peaches	480/400
Cherry	350/300	Pepper (sweet)	260/220
Cucumber	170/130	Pepper (hot)	260/220
Eggplant (large)	120/ 80	Plums	230/200
Eggplant (small)	150/100	Potatoes	160/120
Fig	600/400	Radishes	120/ 80
Garlic	700/650	Tomatoes	160/100
Grapes	370/300	Vine leaves	350/300
Grapefruit	180/150	Water melon	110/ 80

Corporation to sell vacant plots at Abu Nuseir estate

AMMAN (Petra) — Vacant plots of land within the area of Abu Nuseir housing estate will be offered for sale as of Wednesday and the Housing Corporation will be taking charge of the operations, the corporation's director general Mr. Shafiq Zawaideh, announced Tuesday.

He said that local citizens, expatriates, cooperative societies and other organisations will be allowed to benefit from this project. Mr. Zawaideh went on to say that interested parties can start registering their names to own land in the Abu Nuseir area as of Wednesday.

Mr. Zawaideh was speaking during a special gathering for distributing a further 63 housing units to beneficiaries at Abu Nuseir Housing Estate, north west of Amman. So far 2,500 units out of 3,655 units have been built by the corporation and these units are almost all ready for occupancy. The remainder will be completed by the end of this year, Mr. Zawaideh said.

Referring to the forthcoming Second Jordanian Expatriates Conference, Mr. Zawaideh said that the corporation has made arrangements to offer expatriates wishing to own their housing units at Abu Nuseir to do so in the near future.

There are 16 types of buildings at the Abu Nuseir estate with varying areas from 83 to 144 square metres, Mr. Zawaideh said. These units, he added, cost between JD 13,000 and JD 24,000 and could be paid for in instalments over 25 years at five per cent interest.

LAST-MINUTE TALKS: His Majesty King Hussein confers with Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayez (second from right), Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi (to Mr. Fayez' right) and Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali (right), prior to his departure for Saudi Arabia on Tuesday (Petra photo)

Jordan, Pakistan sign minutes on trade exchange, phosphates and cement sales

AMMAN (Petra) — Pakistan has decided in principle to purchase Jordanian cement and phosphates and has also agreed to set up a joint Jordanian-Pakistani committee to conduct deals in this respect, according to minutes signed on Tuesday by officials from the two sides.

The Pakistani side stressed the need for increasing the volume of trade between the two countries and it called on the Pakistani government to purchase Jordanian cement, according to these minutes. The minutes said that Pakistan should purchase Jordanian cement in the remaining months of 1986 and during the coming year and that Jordan will provide Pakistan with specifications on its high-grade cement which is for sale.

Joint ventures

Also in the minutes, the two sides agreed to launch joint ventures which employ primary materials produced in Jordan, particularly phosphates, which are basic element in the manufacture of fertilisers, and that additional amounts of Jordanian phosphates should be imported by Pakistan.

The minutes were signed by Finance Minister Hanna Odeh and visiting Pakistani Minister of Production Islamuddin Sheikh.

Also, Tuesday, it was announced that the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) will sell a Pakistani company 250,000 tonnes of phosphates worth $10 million to be delivered before the end of March 1987. The agreement was signed by Mr. Makram Zureikat, JPMC's director of sales and marketing, and a representative of the Pakistani company.

Pakistani minister leaves

Later Tuesday Mr. Sheikh wound up his week-long visit to Jordan and left for home. During his visit, he was received by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and he held talks with Jordanian officials. Mr. Sheikh was seen off at the airport by Finance Minister Hanna Odeh and other Jordanian officials.

E. German education official concludes visit to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. Gunter Heidron, deputy minister of higher education in the German Democratic Republic (GDR), left Amman Tuesday after a two-day visit during which he met with his Jordanian counterpart Dr. Nasseruddine Al Assad and senior university officials.

Dr. Heidron also met with University of Jordan Vice President for Scientific Affairs Abdul Wahab Al Borollossi and the dean of the university's faculty of sports, Dr. Abdullah Oweidat.

Dr. Heidron and Dr. Oweidat discussed means of developing education, cultural and sport ties with East Germany and sending a Jordanian sports delegation to East Germany.

During their meeting, Dr. Assad and Dr. Heidron discussed prospects of working out a programme for 1987-1988 which will encourage the exchange of publications and experts as well as children's books and films.

Expatriates start to arrive for conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegations taking part in the Second Jordanian Expatriates' Conference have started arriving in Amman and will be registering their names at the Royal Cultural Centre where the meetings are to take place.

Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan said that a higher committee in charge of preparing for the conference will be supervising the registration procedure which will continue until Sunday July 13, the eve of the opening session which will be held at the Parliament building in Amman. According to the minister, the participating delegations will also be submitting their working papers to the preparatory committee.

The delegations which were interviewed by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, expressed satisfaction with the facilities offered to them at airports and border posts.

Some 400 delegates from six Arab states and from Europe, America and Australia are to take part in the conference, which will be held under royal patronage. Working papers to be reviewed at the conference tackle different subjects of concern to expatriates and their relations with their home and host countries.

RSS holds seminar on testing materials, industrial maintenance

AMMAN (Petra) — A one-day symposium on conducting tests on materials and means of protection and conducting maintenance in industrial businesses was held at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Tuesday. Taking part were 40 engineers and specialists employed by private and public sector companies, the Armed Forces, Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, the Jordan Electricity Authority, the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company, the Natural Resources Authority and the Jordan Cement Factories Industries Company.

Opening the symposium was Hassan Khadra, head of the RSS' mechanical engineering department, who said that the meeting was designed to highlight the process of conducting tests without wastage and the need to give more attention to maintenance in Jordanian businesses.

The symposium dealt with the use of gamma and X-rays.

JSFH organises sports camp

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped (JSFH) will Wednesday open a sports camp for handicapped children at Ider, near Karak, JSFH Secretary General Yuser Karmi announced Tuesday. He said that the camp aims to offer 60 handicapped children the chance to receive training in self-reliance in matters pertaining to their daily life without assistance from their parents or the rehabilitation centres which have been caring for them.

Nursing, midwifery college to have its own new premises

ZARQA (Petra) — A new building to house the Zarqa nursing and midwifery college will be set up on an area of 500 dunums of land on the Yajouz-Amman road and the construction work will be implemented by the Health Ministry, according to a spokesman for the Zarqa Health Department.

The spokesman said that the ministry has acquired a loan for the project from the World Bank and intends to embark on building operations in the near future.

Egyptian delegation arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture is due here on Saturday at the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture for talks on cooperation between the two countries in crop production affairs.

The delegation, which will spend 11 days in Jordan, will visit agricultural projects to inspect Jordan's experiments in agricultural extension services, plasticulture and agricultural mechanisation in crop production operations, a Ministry of Agriculture spokesman said. The spokesman added that the ministry has prepared a programme for the delegation's members to tour a number of regions and to discuss scopes of cooperation between the two countries.

Businesswomen, economists discuss consumers' rights

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Undersecretary of the Ministry of Supply Abdullah Hawamdeh Sunday said that Jordan's expenditure on consumer goods has increased three fold over the gross national product (GNP) during the past ten years.

This increase, from 9 per cent to 27 per cent, has had adverse effects on Jordanian society by decreasing potential revenues needed for production investment, to maintain Jordan's production potential and increasing the country's imports bill affecting thus the balance of trade, Mr. Hawamdeh explained.

Mr. Hawamdeh made these comments in a speech he delivered at the opening of a two-day seminar on consumer protection. The seminar has been organised by the Business and Professional Womens Club (BPWC).

The seminar will discuss working papers related to consumption in Jordan, and the importance of the media and the public sector in marketing consumer goods, the relationship between the private sector and the consumer as well as means of protecting consumers' rights.

Mr. Hawamdeh indicated that the five-year development plan hopes to rationalise public and private consumption to lower the improportional ratio between expenditure on consumption and the GNP.

The plan, he said, aims to increase the ratio of spending on GNP to total consumption expenditure so that the consumption to GNP ratio drops from the 1985 figures of 111 per cent to 99 per cent in 1990.

Mr. Hawamdeh briefed the seminar on the socio-economic dangers of Jordan being a consuming society rather than a producing society and he expressed hope that the country will be able to promote the important values of changing its food patterns and consumption trends.

Lack of available information to consumers when buying their requirements renders it difficult for consumers to choose appropriate goods at a reasonable price, said Mr. Hawamdeh, emphasising that in numerous instances Jordanians prefer to buy imported commodities similar to those which are produced locally.

He called for more cooperation between the public sector and the consumer saying such cooperation will reduce price cheating and will improve the quality and specifications of commodities.

Mrs. Hind Abdul Jaber, president of the BPWC, underlined the importance of the seminar in raising the awareness of a consuming society through guiding the public to their purchases at the least price and to refrain from the negative effects of consumer advertising.

Chairman of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Al Khatib in his speech described the issue being tackled by the seminar as one "of the most important subjects which needs to be discussed due to its important effects on Jordanian society."

Consumers' society

Dr. Khatib told the meeting that GUVS has created a society for protecting consumers and he said that this organisation aims to help citizens protect themselves. "We believe that protection of citizens should be promoted and supported by a special voluntary body such as this society," he said.

This organisation, Dr. Khatib continued, can conduct research on matters of concern to consumers and will offer advice and guidance and also solutions to problems on matters related to exploitation and the manipulation of prices which can harm consumers. In addition, Dr. Khatib said, this society could help in drawing up specifications for all basic consumer commodities which are closely related to the citizens' social and economic needs.

Working papers

The situation regarding consumption in Jordanian society was the subject of a paper presented by former minister of trade and industry Jawad Al Anani.

Other papers submitted to the seminar on Tuesday were on the role of the public sector on protecting the consumer which was presented by Dr. Mohammad Zaitoun, "The private sector and the consumer: the present and the future," Dr. Fahed Al Fanek, a leading economist, and "the role of standards and specifications in protecting the consumer," by Mr. Salah Taha from the Ministry of Industry and Trade's specifications and metrology department.

Jerash Festival starts today

Eleven Arab, international troupes to take part in 10-day cultural, artistic fiesta at ancient city

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JERASH — Drums will roll, lights will blaze and the entire ancient Greco-Roman city of Jerash will come to life once again as thousands of spectators and hundreds of performers gather here today to herald the opening of the 10-day Fifth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts.

A brief tour at the city's site reveals that infrastructure work including the construction of makeshift theatres, platforms, restaurants, toilets and other services have been completed and are ready to host the cultural extravaganza in which 11 Arab and international countries will take part.

A large number of Jordan's folklore troupes and music bands, as well as two exhibitions on literature and the works of contemporary artists, will be displayed during the fiesta in addition to other cultural and artistic performances from Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey, Italy Indonesia, Czechoslovakia, France, Spain, the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.

The performances during the festival will include theatre, music and song, folklore dances, poetry recitals, ballet and shows and exhibitions.

Something for everyone

A number of Jordanian plays for children and adults and two popular Egyptian plays will be performed at the festival. Folklore troupes from as near as Iraq and Lebanon to as far away as Indonesia will display a varied array of their rich, colourful and authentic cultures. From Spain, the Madrid-based flamenco group will stage a lively show of this vivid genre of dance, while the USSR and Italy will stage ballet and modern dance shows.

Two groups from the U.S., the D.C. Contemporary Dance Theatre and the "Children of the World," will present different forms of performing arts along with two unique theatre companies from France and Czechoslovakia who will also demonstrate their artistic skills.

In the 1985 festival, 22 countries participated attracting approximately 120,000 spectators. This year, the festival's director Michel Hamarneh hopes that the fifth Jerash fiesta will attract 150,000 spectators.

"It is the quality of shows to be presented during the 1986 festival, that we are emphasising, rather than the quantity and the number of shows," Mr. Hamarneh told a press conference held in Amman on Monday. During the press conference, Mr. Hamarneh outlined all preperations taken by the festival's higher committee, which is chaired by Her Majesty Queen Noor. He also explained the types and number of performances, to be staged during the event.

The festival, which was launched in 1980, has become a landmark in Jordan's cultural life and Mr. Hamarneh hopes that it will reach an international level from where the fiesta could be used to project pan-Arab and Islamic cultures to countries in the east and west.

"The festival is the means by which all Arab citizens can promote the cultural image of the Arab and Islamic worlds in international fora," said Mr. Hamarneh, expressing hope that the event would soon become an international festival.

The festival has many aims, many of which have already been realised on both the national, pan-Arab and regional levels, the festival director continued.

Reviving Jordan's heritage

On the local scene, the festival has revived Jordanian cultural heritage, folklore and art as many local groups would never have had the chance to stage their performing arts if it were not for the festival.

Jordan's national economy has been partially supported by the festival which encouraged tourism to Jordan as well as domestic tourism. In 1985, the festival attracted more than 120,000 spectators and in 1984, the number of spectators reached 140,000. The festival has also succeeded in bridging cultural gaps between Jordan and other countries and has facilitated cultural and human interactions between Jordanians and Arabs on the one hand and between Arabs and the world on the other hand, Mr. Hamarneh said.

The event has had another positive effect on Jordan since it introduced the Kingdom as a venue for art and culture and the festival's organisers' hope that the country will have an excellent reputation as a centre of civilisation, art and culture.

Fewer participating groups

Mr. Hamarneh said that the drop in the number of groups from 21 countries in 1985 to 11 countries in 1986 is in line with the organisers' aims which are to cut expenses and to offer the audience quality shows.

"The previous festivals' expenses were quiet high since we had to pay some of the groups as well as various parties who used to help the festival. This year, volunteers will play a major role in cutting down the expenses," said Mr. Hamarneh who added that 40 youths from Jerash have volunteered to clean the city and others have offered their services to guide people around and to coordinate the programmes' activities with the local and foreign media.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, who have patronised the four previous openings of the Jerash Festival will not do so this year as Mr. Hamarneh said the event is now well-established and that usually new events are inaugurated. In previous festivals King Hussein lit the festival flame, mounted atop a Roman column, to signal the festival's formal opening.

At this year's festival, Jordanian troupes taking part in the festival will stage a 30-minute show to welcome all Arab and foreign countries participating in the fiesta and after that the festival will resume its scheduled programme.

Entrance fees

This year, the higher committee has introduced a new entrance fee system. Under the system, each individual has to present a ticket to one of the shows he or she wishes to see and the spectator does not have to pay any entrance fee to the site. However, visitors to the festival who do not intend to see any of the ticketed shows but who would like to watch the free shows which are staged in the main theatre will have to pay a JD 1 entrance fee. In the 1985 festival each individual above six years of age had to pay a JD 1 entrance fee. Tickets are sold at the Royal Cultural Centre and at the entrance to the site.

Two special parking lots have been allocated to accommodate 5,000 cars and cars can also park on the side of the town's roads.

Local bus companies in Irbid, Zarqa and Amman have drawn up agreements with the festival's administration to operate regular routes to and from Jerash.

Several ambulances will be assigned to handle any emergency cases and wireless telephone exchanges and two television vehicles will be on hand to cover the festival's events.

Refreshments

The Amman Gateway Hotel, which is owned by Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline has agreed with the festival's administration to be in charge of selling food and beverages to the public.

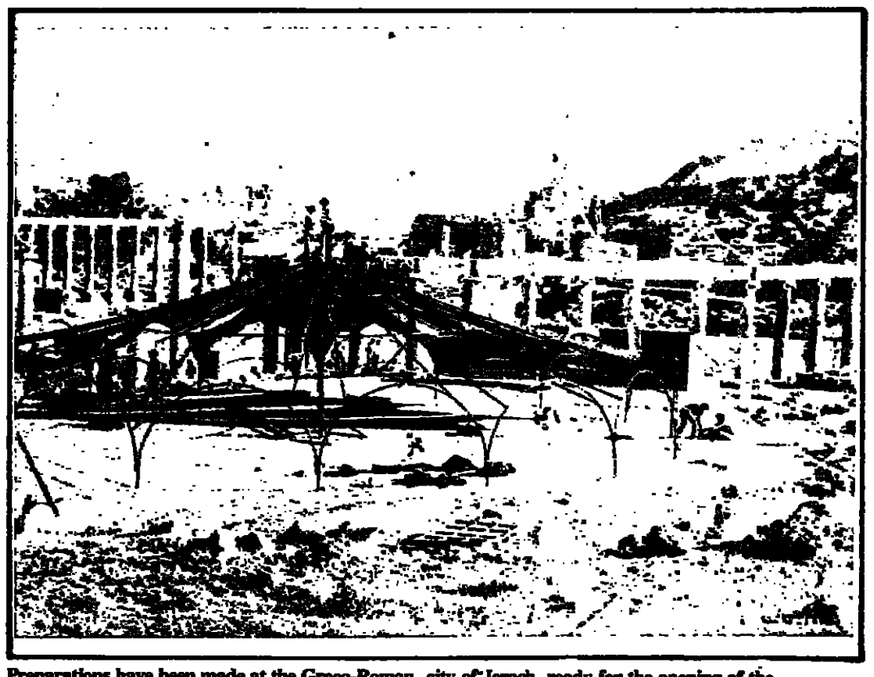
During the previous four festivals, food and beverages were sold at various places inside the city and spectators as well as visitors had a wide selection ranging from the popular *hommos* and *fhool* dishes to shawarma, hamburgers and grilled meat.

Mr. Hamarneh commented that the food and beverages to be sold to the public will be of excellent quality and at average prices.

There are two large tents which have been refurbished as restaurants where visitor can sit and enjoy a meal or a drink and there are several small kiosks distributed throughout the festival site.

Another important introduction in this year's event is the availability of baby sitters to care for children aged between three and eight. "Families with small children can now enjoy the shows instead of having to attend to their children," said Mr. Hamarneh, pointing out that families requesting the baby sitting services have to show the tickets of the show they are attending.

The festival director said that security forces have been reduced to the minimum number needed to maintain security and people's comfort inside the festival site.



Preparations have been made at the Greco-Roman city of Jerash ready for the opening of the festival tonight

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No cause for despair

IT HAS become a well-known axiom in the Arab World that no negotiations towards a Middle East settlement can take place until the Arabs have some kind of military parity with Israel. It has more logic than the traditional Israeli argument, when it is demanding increased military aid from the West, that it must have clear superiority over all the Arabs together before it can feel secure enough to negotiate. This is unconvincing because the more certain Israel is of its own power the less willing it has been to consider concessions of any kind.

But if the Arabs accept this Syrian-led argument the more frustrated they must feel that the one move that would at a stroke enormously increase Arab bargaining power — a reconciliation between Syria and Iraq — seems very difficult to achieve. It is true that Egypt's return to the Arab front, which would be signalled by its being invited to an Arab summit conference, would be an equal, if not greater, boost to Arab morale but would be self-deceiving to believe this can happen as long as the Egyptian-Israeli treaty still stands. For Egypt to abandon this treaty would require a total reversal of its alliances, and this is something that President Mubarak has neither the will nor the inclination to risk.

However, the holding of an Arab summit even without Egypt would create a wholly changed atmosphere. It is clear now that a *sine qua non* for this is a Syrian concession over its attitude towards Iran.

Still, despite all the gloomy prospects prevailing in the Arab World, there are reasons why the Arabs should not be mesmerised by despair. This includes the Palestinians who have the best cause for pessimism. The reason is that Israel's invincibility is less real than might appear.

Today there are many symptoms of a deep malaise in Israeli society — the secular-religious dispute which has caused unsensational journalists to talk of potential civil war, the discrediting of the highest financial authorities and the repercussions of the Shin Beth and Pollard affairs which show either that Israel's intelligence services are beyond control or that their worst actions are condoned by the country's leaders. In the Israeli press there is serious discussion over Israel's armed forces with various hawks and doves agreeing that their performance has declined in each war since 1967.

It is not surprising that the more farsighted Israelis are deeply concerned about their prospects. But there is an even more important reason for their alarm. At a recent seminar organised by a group of French intellectuals and including Palestinians from the occupied territories and Israel as well as dovish Israeli Zionists, the most striking impression was the contrast between the Israelis' complacency about the immediate situation and their anxiety about future trends. Thus they agreed that both Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza now accepted that the occupation was permanent, that it caused Israelis no hardship and little concern and that there was no Palestinian resistance of any consequence. But they were united in their concern about the demographic trend over the next 20 years with Jewish immigration into Israel declining and the Arab birth rate soaring. One added the point that Arab emigration was declining as young men returned from the Gulf to the West Bank. For these Israelis the glaring prospect was a de facto binational state by the year 2000.

Several Palestinians mentioned the favoured Arab analogy between the Zionist state and the Crusader kingdoms but for some the parallel between Mr. Peres and President Botha was more striking. Indeed the similarities between the condition of white South Africa and Israel are now so potent that there is a danger of exaggerating them. For one thing U.S. congressional support for Israel is unlikely to melt as fast as it seems to be doing for the Pretoria regime. However, there are good grounds for believing that the Arabs only have to show steadfastness and endurance to prove that time is on their side. Depression and anger over their leaders' failure to reach a minimum of agreement is justified — but not despair — Middle East International, London.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Jordan maintains national policy

JORDAN has always been keen on maintaining its firm policy in support of the Palestinians and their just cause. For Jordan the Palestine question is a national issue — it is a problem closely connected with the country's past and future, a problem of people and land of the same family and the same nation. Jordan has been bravely maintaining this policy and continuing to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule regardless of the challenges and the dangers. The Jordanian government which has just decided to close down all offices which are not affiliated to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) announced it continues to adhere to its policy with regard to the Palestine question. The closure of these offices was purely on security grounds in view of the dangerous role these offices had been exercising. The closure can by no means reflect a contrary attitude or a change in the Jordanian policy toward the PLO or the Palestinian people.

Al Dustour: Iran's failure

AFTER a new round of fighting along the Iran-Iraq battlefront things seem to have settled down without any chance for Iran to achieve any of its ambitious goals or at least influence the course of the conflict. Perhaps Iranian leaders would now take a lesson of this situation and the heavy cost of the battles around Mehran and come to realise that they can never achieve any decisive military victory and impose their will and their terms on Iraq or the Arab Nation. The long record of defeats suffered by the Iranians over the past six years and the tragedies brought on the Iranian people should provide a clear evidence that Tehran can never force the Arab people to abandon their rights and their land to allow the Iranian regime to impose its will on the Arab Nation. The outcome of the last round of fighting and all the sufferings it entailed should open the Iranian rulers' eyes to these facts and they should find a means of ending this war that has sapped the resources of the Islamic and Arab countries.

Sawt Al Shaab: Educational stability

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai's message to the King in reply to a Royal letter sent to him on Saturday on the events of Yarmouk University reflected the government's keenness on implementing in full the directives of the King with a view to redressing matters connected with higher education in Jordan. The prime minister has pledged that the government will close all gaps in this system and will develop higher education and improve the academic system with the purpose of preventing any chance for deviation in the future and to safeguard Jordan's higher institutes of learning. The government is clearly concerned with the security and stability in Jordan, something that has characterised this Kingdom over the years and enabled it to make significant achievements in many fields. The educational institutions like all other institutions can never prosper and succeed unless they enjoy stability and security.

The Middle East: Wealth and underdevelopment?

By Riad Khouri

THE Middle East's diversity is fascinating (or exasperating depending on one's point of view). Even excluding the Israelis, who are a part of the region in the same way as a brain tumour is part of the head, the Middle East presents the observer with a wide range of languages, sects, and cultures which provide endless interest for both local and foreign academics, tourists, or even plain laymen. Further down to earth, the region's economic and material diversity is also striking. After all it contains the rich of Kuwait as well as the poor of Cairo, and the merchants of Damascus or Jeddah, whether they like it or not, are basically part of an economy which also includes the middle classes of Amman and the shell-shocked professionals of Beirut. So what on earth unites the people of the Middle East, Arabic speaking and otherwise?

The grim answer to this question is very simple: "underdevelopment." Not terribly flattering but unfortunately true. Wealth has nothing to do with it; if anything, the rich Gulf states are less developed than their poorer brethren to the north. And this brings us face with the term "development." The word is on everybody's lips in the Third World and it has long since escaped from the classroom and government office into common parlance. But what does it involve?

According to Elias Ghantous, assistant secretary general at the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries, "the common features of underdevelopment are, inter alia, the high rates of population growth, lack of skills, inadequacy of infrastructure and development institutions, technological dependency, and low average productivity of factors of production." Ghantous adds that the most dominant feature of underdevelopment is the excessive reliance of economic growth on the production and export of one or a few agricultural and extractive products. This means that Middle East economies are "open" and vulnerable to external influences.

The disproportion in factor endowment which characterises most developing countries is reflected in an imbalance of the economic structure, and this usually leads to the underemployment of a major factor of production. In other words of the various things needs to produce goods and services, one or more is in short supply and this results in the underutilisation or misuse of the other.

As any first-year economics student knows the four factors of production we normally talk about are land (including underground and undersea wealth), labour, capital and organisation (which sort of also covers management and technology). Since the development process aims at increasing the productivity of currently employed factors, and at bringing idle ones into production, it always involves some restructuring in the economy.

But development means both growth and change, and aims simultaneously at expanding economic activity and changing its sectoral composition. Often, the improvement in the productivity of factors of production in developing countries is achieved primarily by transferring gradually a part of the labour force from agricultural pursuits, where labour productivity is low to urban occupations where workers produce more. Many economists tended to perceive the course of development as taking place in different stages, namely from agriculture to industry and then something more advanced based on services. In fact these stages tend to exist side by side, and this is nowhere more glaringly apparent than in the Middle East.

Ever since the price of oil began to rise steeply in the mid-1970's, the Middle East ceased to be just another developing region and became the poor little rich boy of the world economy. And the recent downturn in the international petroleum market hasn't made that much difference to the overall picture: The Middle East as a whole is still loaded with money. In terms of their national products or foreign exchange reserves the oil-exporters are very well off, and they have directly or indirectly transferred some of this wealth to much of the rest of the region. So unlike most other developing areas, money is no problem in the Middle East. And neither are land and natural resources; the region is full of potential natural wealth and lots of space. The problem in the Middle East is basically people and the socio-economic structures within which they operate.

Most of the region's countries are underpopulated and all of them have peoples who are unable to handle available resources. This is an enormous problem and the population of the Middle East is still basically uneducated in spite of the strong progress made in this field in recent years.

Much more will have to be done to bring the quantity and quality of the region's schools and universities up to the standards required for healthy development. But educating people to have them end up emigrating to Canada or wherever is worse than useless; it is expensive and destabilising. Graduates and other trained persons often do not fit into their societies and economies, so they leave not realising that they are the ones who are finally called upon to initiate and manage productive change.

Thus the fragile economies of the Middle East are left to muddle along with a vast surplus of capital and a shortage of labour as well as systems of management, organisation and technology that are often weak and inappropriate.

In the end the problem isn't really economic. The people with the right education do not have the political will, and those who do are often without education.

It almost seems as if a malevolent process sometimes operates whereby the more educated one is, the less qualified he becomes to assume a position of social, economic or political leadership. It's a sort of Middle East recapitulation of the principle which asserts that one rises to the level of one's incompetence.

Nevertheless, educated people are creeping into the regional power structure. With them comes a glimmer of hope that the region will have some sort of stable and prosperous future. If so, it has to be based on economic diversification and a gradual shift to indigenous technique wherever appropriate. Otherwise, the Middle East's wealth will be turned into weapons and ammunition to wage constant civil and regional war in an atmosphere of endless instability.

'Star Wars' retains arms talks clout although plighted

By Christopher Hanson
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Despite U.S. space setbacks and big budget cuts, President Reagan's "Star Wars" space defence programme still could be a potent bargaining chip in superpower arms talks, analysts believe.

The past few months have not been kind to the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), as "Star Wars" is called officially, but the Kremlin appears hardly to have noticed.

Explosions since January of the space shuttle Challenger and two unmanned rockets have raised questions about America's ability to test components of a "Star Wars" anti-missile shield and then lift the enormous system into orbit.

The Challenger disaster has grounded the shuttle fleet indefinitely, delaying key space tests which were to have shown the feasibility of SDI systems, bolster "Star Wars" support in Congress, and — as Federation of American Scientists space expert John Pike put it — "put the fear of the Lord into the Russians."

The Senate armed services committee has rejected as unrealistic Reagan's dream of a leak-proof anti-missile screen over the United States and urged more modest SDI goals.

Forty-eight of the 100 U.S. senators signed a letter recently urging spending growth for SDI research be held to three per cent. Reagan wants a 70 per cent increase next year.

Committees in the House and Senate have slashed over $1 billion from his $4.8-billion 1987 SDI budget request.

The only recent bright spot for SDI was an experiment last month in which a ground-launched army test rocket intercepted a missile at 12,000 feet (3,640 metres).

But despite the drubbing taken by SDI, its arms talk bargaining potential appears largely undiminished, according to private arms control experts.

They say the Soviet Union appears as anxious as ever to contain the scheme before it moves from research to deployment.

SDI chief General James Abrahamson warned publicly last month that "Star Wars" cuts could cause substantial delays in the programme. State Department officials told Reuters the loss of congressional momentum behind SDI could undermine Kremlin incentives to make concessions in Geneva.

But so far at least those incentives appear to have remained strong.

Setbacks to SDI did not stop the Soviet Union last month from going ahead with a proposal to curb its nuclear missile arsenal in exchange for U.S. SDI restraints, informed U.S. officials, who did not wish to be identified, told Reuters.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev offered missile cuts in exchange for a U.S. vow to remain for 15 years within the constraints of the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty, which would bar "Star Wars" deployment under the most widely held interpretation.

The arms overture was a sign Moscow continues to be worried about SDI, according to James Rubin, an analyst with private arms control association.

Moscow has long been aware that deploying a "Star Wars" system would pose great logistical difficulties, but is still concerned Washington might overcome them. The Challenger blast did not erase those concerns, Rubin said.

Rubin said even if Congress cuts "Star Wars" spending requests substantially, the programme would still increase to over $3 billion next year compared with $2.75 billion this year — a substantial rate of growth which Moscow cannot afford to ignore.

What stood in the way of an arms deal is not a weakened U.S. bargaining hand, said John Steinbruner of the private Brookings Institution, but Washington's seeming unwillingness to play the "Star Wars" card.

A powerful faction of administration arms control sceptics was seeking to stifle speculation about the bargaining clout of SDI, insisting "Star Wars" was not negotiable.

Reagan himself, at least in public, has held to that line from the start. Some aides say he believes deeply the concept promises the world its only real hope to escape the nuclear missile balance of terror and that he will not listen to any suggestions of compromise.

Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, long a staunch backer of Reagan's scheme, said recently: "The president is not putting it forward to be given away."

But some administration arms control officials have suggested a trade-off might be possible if Kremlin concessions are sufficiently broad, firm, and verifiable and if the resulting pact allowed SDI research, banning only the later production and deployment phases of an SDI programme.

U.S. officials said it was the momentum of SDI research which brought Moscow back to the Geneva arms control negotiating table after it walked out in 1983.

If the details of new Soviet proposals were enticing enough, Reagan might be pulled toward compromise, these officials said.

During a recent seminar, top Reagan arms control adviser Paul Nitze hinted at the bargaining potential of SDI.

"Were the Soviets to work with us in a meaningful exploration of significant (nuclear arms) reductions, we could examine how the level of defence would logically be affected by the nature and level of offensive arms — I'd be interested myself in talking to them about that kind of trade," he said.

Under a state of siege, South African black unions show potential power

By David Crary
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Even under siege in the state of emergency, black labour unions are showing they may be the force with the greatest potential to foster change in South Africa without a bloodbath.

Legalised only seven years ago, the unions now have about 1 million members and the capacity to cripple the industries which fuel South Africa's economy.

Employers are not entirely pleased by the black unions' growing power, but most are respectful and some see their dealings with the labour movement as a valuable lesson for the rest of the country.

"Labour relations is providing a very important laboratory for experimenting with democracy in the broader society," said Bobby Godsell, who oversees industrial relations for the powerful Anglo American mining conglomerate.

"What management and workers have discovered is that power indeed can be shared, in a way that is to the mutual satisfaction of two parties," Godsell said. "The question is how can we break out of the laboratory and get into the real world."

Union action has been the only form of mass black protest since the June 12 emergency declaration. Workers have staged both traditional strikes for higher pay and also sit-down strikes and work stoppages to protest state-of-emergency detentions of more than 200 union leaders.

Despite government warnings that unions should stay out of politics, the predominantly Black Congress of South African trade unions — the country's largest labour federation — last Wednesday demanded "an end to repression and movement to democratic resolution of our country's problems."

The congress threatened a nationwide mass protest if this and various labour-related demands were not met.

Unions have taken part in or led the largest protests in the country's history, starting with a general strike in Transvaal province in 1984 that involved up to 800,000 people.

This year, more than 1 million black workers stayed away from jobs on May 1, International Labour Day, to protest apartheid and demand that the day be declared a public holiday.

Black unions also endorsed the vast nationwide stayaway on June 16 to commemorate the 1976 Soweto riots. Fears that the anniversary would produce disruptive protests were a major factor behind the government's decision to declare an emergency.

The government's attitude is that unions should stay out of politics and confine themselves to job-related issues. It says violations of that principle prompted the widespread detentions of union leaders since the emergency, and that no union leaders were held for labour activities.

But the 500,000-member union congress has refused to stop politicking.

Said congress president Elijah Barayi in an interview with Leadership Magazine earlier this year: "Cosatu is part and parcel of the liberation struggle."

Stephen Gelb, a researcher with an academic team called the Labour Monitoring Group, said black unions have been major target of the emergency crackdown because of their political activities.

"Whether the government will be successful in pushing them out of the political arena remains an open question," Gelb said. "They've put down very strong roots on the shop floor, and those can't be broken by a few weeks of emergency."

Some prominent executives have protested to the government about the detentions of union leaders, saying labour relations developed carefully over the past few years will be disrupted and yield to bitterness. But many employers have remained silent about the emergency, and Cosatu says some are taking advantage of the crackdown by trying to reverse union gains.

Barayi has pledged that a Cosatu-backed government would nationalise the country's mines and last December he said all congress members should be prepared to burn their pass books — permits which blacks were required to carry to travel or work in "white" areas — if the pass laws were not abolished.

The pass laws were repealed this year — a move which probably ranks along with the leaglisation of black unions as the two most significant reforms in four decades of National Party rule.

Cosatu's oft-stated views on international pressure against South Africa may not be reported under press restrictions barring detailed reports of such appeals.

Cosatu's biggest affiliate is the National Union of Mineworkers, which represents about half of the nation's 550,000 black miners.

Last Wednesday, it rejected a wage offer from mine owners, raising the possibility of a nationwide strike if arbitration procedures fail, and on Friday about 2,000 of its members struck at four diamond mines to protest detentions of union leaders.

The potential power of the miners' union is vast. Gold sales account for roughly half the country's export earnings, and the mining industry as a whole comprises 14 per cent of the total domestic product.

One Cosatu affiliate, the Food and Allied Workers Union, showed its clout over the past few weeks by negotiating raises of up to 53 per cent at factories in Cape province.

"There has been an almost miraculous development among black trade unions," said Anglo American's Godsell. "We're impressed with the rapidity and skill with which they have developed. They are a powerful social phenomenon."

He said there were now about 100 different unions, active at more than 2,000 factories and businesses and funded by dues totalling about 1 million rand ($400,000) a month.

"People have focused on the number of strikes here, but we are still relatively strike-free compared to Britain, the U.S. and Canada," Godsell said. "What surprises me is that in this deeply polarised society, black unions and white management find agreement as often as they do. For every one strike, there are four agreements."

Despite its potential strength, the black labour movement is confronted by basic problems. Several major sectors of the work force remain non-unionised, including farm labourers.

The movement also is driven by serious divisions.

The Inkatha movement of Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the country's most powerful black moderate, this year formed a new labour federation to counter what it views as Cosatu's excessive militance.

The new group, the United Workers Union of South Africa, has denounced many of the policies advocated by Cosatu such as socialist and the use of strikes as a political weapon.

There also is a lingering ideological split between Cosatu which espouses multiracial principles of black consciousness.

There is, in addition, a fifth labour federation, the Trade Union Council of South Africa, which has the second largest membership of the labour grouping but consists primarily of white-run unions considered pro-government and paternalistic by most black activists.

Coping with wild-animal attacks involves common sense, respect

By Kim Heacox
National Geographic

WEST THUMB, Wyo — High on a ridge in Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park, a hiker crosses the timberline and enters a subalpine meadow of waist-high grasses. Up ahead, something moves.

It's a grizzly bear about 100 feet away. The bear rises nine feet tall onto its hind legs, waves its nose in the air, drops onto four legs, and begins to run straight at the hiker. There is no tree to climb; nowhere to run, nowhere to hide, and the hiker has no gun. What would he do?

This desperate thought has run through the minds of many people.

"When I saw that bear come smoking down on me," says Montana hunting guide Bill Hill. "I didn't have any trouble deciding who was the endangered species."

Sometimes both die

Every summer, from Wyoming to Alaska, humans and bears have fatal encounters. Sometimes the human dies, sometimes the bear, sometimes both.

Visits to U.S. national parks have nearly tripled in the last 10 years. More people are hiking the trails and meeting not just bears, but other potentially dangerous wildlife species.

A young boy trying to feed a deer in California's Yosemite National Park was suddenly gored and killed.

A moose trampled a sled-dog musher and his dogs when they surprised it on a snowy trail in central Alaska.

a well-meaning woman found an injured heron in Louisiana and, as she reached out to help the frightened bird, it whipped around its dagger-like beak and impaled her through the neck. She died instantly.

"I remember that fellow killed by the bison," says Yellowstone ranger Fred Hirschmann. "He was trying to pat it on the head. We don't go around patting each other on our heads, do we? Enough is enough."

Wildlife biologists contend that fatal and injurious encounters between people and wildlife result from human ignorance, not animal aggression.

"Bears aren't out there plotting murder," says Kathy Jope, resource-management specialist at Alaska's Katmai National Park. "They have better things to do. I've seen bears repeatedly charge and growl at photographers, fishermen, and campers. None of those charges was unprovoked. In every case the person either frightened or irritated the bear. It doesn't have to happen."

Jope believes that most people don't know how to avoid bear encounters or how to react once an encounter begins.

Swift predators

"Grizzly bears are predators," she says. "You can't outrun them unless there is a safe shelter nearby. An animal that runs probably evokes within the bear a predator response, so the bear gives chase."

Moose, on the other hand, are a prey species. A full-grown Alaska bull moose stands six feet tall at the shoulders and weighs 1,600 pounds. One kick can kill a man. A charging moose is as dangerous as a charging bear.

"Maybe more dangerous," adds Kathy Jope, "since bears often 'bluff charge,' turning around at the last moment, and moose do not."

Moose have a distinct territory within which any intruder is fiercely attacked, and outside of which he is tolerated. If the intruder runs away fast enough and far enough, the moose will stop.

The Park Service and other U.S. public lands agencies now publish booklets that tell how to avoid dangerous encounters with wildlife.

The advice includes checking for scorpions in your boots in the desert in the morning, wearing the proper footwear in rattlesnake country, knowing how to recognise rabid raccoons, and learning the subtle signs on the back of an animal's neck that in effect say: You're too close.

"It's not aggression that sparks a charging bison, bear, or moose," says Jope. "It's fear. A frightened animal has only two options: fight or flight. Bears seldom choose to fight, but when they do, you're in trouble."

The best solution, rangers say, is to avoid the encounter in the first place. Read the literature and follow the recommendations, they advise. A stranger about to enter a wilderness receives all kinds of advice. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't, and sometimes it's just the opposite of what one ought to be doing.

Hard to predict

What even a local expert cannot predict is how an individual bear might react differently from other bears in the same region. Rangers agree that people who cannot avoid grizzly bears and other dangerous animals should at least avoid surprising them.

Wildlife biologists admit that a vacationer may feel like the endangered species when faced with a charging bear, but they point out that for every grizzly bear in North America there are roughly 20,000 humans. Which species, man or bear, is truly endangered, they ask.

Some scientists predict that by the year 2000 the grizzly bear will no longer exist in the Yellowstone Basin. Only 200 to 300 remain today, of which 30 or fewer are breeding females. And from those dwindling numbers several are killed each year.

The bear on the Yellowstone ridge is still charging, only 40 feet away now, chuffing hard. Does the hiker remember what the booklet advised, and what the ranger said? It could determine whether he leaves the scene with, as they say, all the parts intact.

Dangerous competition for a hooked salmon threatens the tranquility of this scene on Alaska's Brooks River. Fisherman John Craighead, a dean of grizzly research, knew enough about the huge bears to break his line and avoid a potentially hazardous encounter. As visits to wilderness areas increase, people with less awareness about how bears, moose, deer, bison, and even birds often react to human intrusion could be courting injury and death.

Riot control gas 'could cause cancer'

By Karl Stankiewitz

CHEMICAL agents in gas used by police against civilians could eventually cause skin cancer, an authority on poison gases told an inquiry in Munich.

Max Daunderer, head of the Munich toxicology centre, was giving evidence at a hearing into injuries received by demonstrators at Wackersdorf, a proposed nuclear reprocessing plant in Bavaria.

During demonstrations, police used both CS and CN gas from water cannon and helicopters.

Daunderer said if the state wanted to use chemical weapons against people, it should at least set up treatment facilities. Forty two seriously ill people had been admitted to the clinic after the Wackersdorf demonstration.

The hearing was held by Social Democrat members of Parliament in the Bavarian State assembly.

MPs saw slides of seriously injured demonstrators. Some had swollen joints, others red patches and blisters all over their bodies. Doctors said the first-and second-degree burns were merely the outward signs of the use of nerve gas at Wackersdorf.

This skin damage took about 10 days to become evident. Daunderer said the slow emergence of sympotms was "extremely mysterious."

The toxicology centre has an international reputation. Staff flew to Bhopal, in India, after the gas leak there.

Only three of the 42 seriously ill patients admitted to he clinic after Wackersdorf, all youngs, said they had been really active demonstators. The remainder said they were merely inquisitive or sympathised with the protest campaign and had been nowhere near where the water cannons sprayed or gas grenades were dropped.

Wolf-Dieter Grahn, a doctor in nearby Schwandorf, outlined three typical cases of patients who had consulted him.

He had diagnosed a lung oedema in its early stages in a 23-year-old man and acute bronchitis in a 42-year-old man and a 31-year-old woman.

They all had serious skin trouble on their arms and chests. Dr. Grahn said he no longer believed constant assurances that these substances were harmless.

He had found not only unprotected parts of the body to have been damaged; the caustic toxin had also penetrated thin, wet clothes and close-fitting jeans.

The effects lasted far longer than medical literature had so far indicated.

Daunderer, the author of a standard toxicology manual, concludes: "If the state feels obliged to use chemical agents against the civilian population then suitable treatment facilities ought at least to be laid on."

He was not, as a poison gas expert, prepared to rule out the possibility of skin cancer resulting years afterwards. It was, indeed, more likely than not to turn out to be a cause of cancer.

Dr. Karl-Heinz Summer of the toxicological unit at the Federal Radiation and Environmental Research Establishment, Munich, said the long-term effects remained to be seen.

The chemical compounds used were certainly not harmless, he said. Dr. Summer is a biochemist.

He had toxicological reservations about using nerve gas merely to break up a demonstration, as has been the case at Wackersdorf.

CN was probably even more harmful than CS gas, said Professor Johannes Ring of Munich University dermatology department.

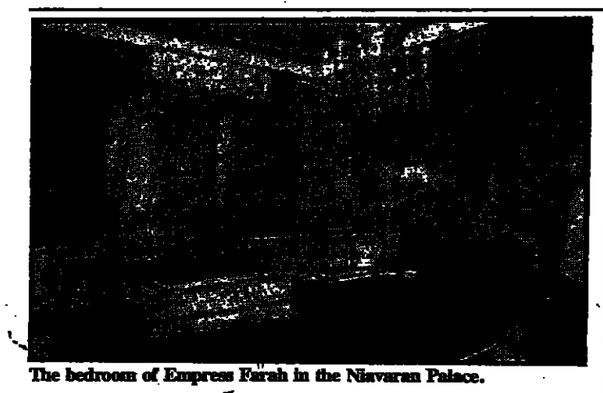
As a specialist in allergies he felt it was surprising that skin trouble had taken so long to occur. That could hardly be what the user had in mind.

Professor Werner Lenk of the university's pharmacology and toxicology department said the symptoms vanished within 10 to 20 minutes if the victims left the scene as soon as they were hit.

But he admitted the substances used were potentially dangerous if they scored a direct hit. There were also risk factors such as differences in the speed at which shells were fired.

Rainer Griesshammer, a research chemist at the Freiburg ecological research institute, said CS gas even in minute concentrations caused eyelid cramp, panic, feelings of claustrophobia, high blood pressure and respiratory arrest for up to 10 seconds.

"Those who are to blame for its use," he said, "run the risk of innocent bystanders being killed". — Stuttgarter Nachrichten.



The bedroom of Empress Farah in the Niavaran Palace.

Iran opens up Shah's palace

By Hugh Pope
Reuter

TEHRAN — Two old gardeners leant on an ornamental lamppost and smiled at the crowd of Iranians filing into the ousted Shah's favourite palace.

"This really makes me happy," said one. "Before, this whole place was just for five people. We had to keep out of sight.

"Now it belongs to everybody, and I can stand here watching the people, and nobody can order me not to."

Seven years after the 1979 revolution which threw out Shah Muhammad Reza Pahlavi, Iranian authorities have decided to open up the Niavaran Palace where he and his family lived in the cool of north Tehran for nine months of the year.

The doors opened to the public this month — officially to display the spend-thrift and ceremonial life, of the late Shah, who died in exile in Egypt in 1980.

The square stone-faced palace and 50 acres (20 hectares) of wooded lawns and rose beds have been kept in immaculate condition — just the way they were on the morning in January 1979 when the Shah and his family fled.

Local militia protected Niavaran's priceless contents from the mobs and Iran's conscientious Museum Service now manages the palace. Many of the Shah's gardeners and retainers still work there.

Revolutionary police in crumpled fatigues guard the iron gates, oblivious to rusting closed-circuit TV cameras surrendered by the frightened remnants of the Shah's guard.

The militia stood guard as officials spent 27 months cataloguing everything inside, including sevres porcelain, Czech chandeliers, gobelin tapestries, antique Persian silk carpets valued up to $2 million and manuscripts worth $3 million.

Crowds have queued for hours, paying 100 rials (about one dollar) to see how the Pahlavis lived. Some seemed disappointed the seven-bedroom palace was not more opulent.

Guides explained that many precious items were not on display, including a gold telephone from the Shah's desk and gold bathroom taps.

These and other valuable artefacts were moved to the Central Bank, they said.

"This is just one part of what the Shah robbed from this country," said a turbaned clergyman. "Compare this palace with the small rented house of Imam Khomeini."

The palace lacks individual style, possibly because it was originally built as a government guest house.

The Shah's wife Farah chose a formal French style for the interior, built around a large two-storey hall.

Decorators Mercier Freres of Paris did up the Shah's bedroom next door in the same style. But curiously his bed was set into a deep recess in the wall and shut off with a thick blue curtain.

Money: enough to end Africa's hunger?

By John Madeley

Official talk at the U.N. special session on Africa held recently in New York centred on cash – how much was needed, who would supply it, and what proportion had to come from Africa itself. Unofficially, a number of eminent Africans were asking if money without political change will be enough.

NEW YORK — The five-year plan of action for African economic recovery, unanimously adopted by a special session of the United Nations General Assembly in early June 1986, is essentially a plan to retrieve Africa's agriculture.

Costing $128 million, the U.N. plan is to be funded approximately 60 per cent by the African countries themselves. They are hoping that the remaining 40 per cent will be filled by external sources.

Significantly, the donor countries refrained from making specific funding commitments, agreeing rather "to make every effort to provide sufficient resources to support and supplement the African development effort." No new institutions are to be set up to channel money into African agriculture. Africans hope that an increased flow of aid will go through existing bilateral and multilateral aid channels.

How likely is it that the $128 million U.N. plan will be fully funded?

The President of Senegal and current chairman of the Organisation for African Unity (OAU), Mr. Abdou Diouf, told the U.N. session: "agriculture is now the priority of priorities for African countries." A pledge to allocate 20-25 per cent of their public sector spending to agriculture means that African countries must now double the money they spend on the farm sector — at a time when national incomes are declining.

African budgets depend partly on the level of world commodity prices. If these remain low then national exchequers are unlikely to be able to provide the money that Africa's farmers need. But the chief buyers of Africa's raw commodities are in no hurry to alter the structure of the current international commodity price regime.

The servicing of external debt makes heavy inroads — $15-24 billion a year — on African revenues. "Our resources are diminished by the payment of external debts on existing terms," said OAU secretary-general, Mr. Ide Omarou in New York.

Although the U.N. plan recognise "the magnitude of Africa's debt and the severe and restrictive burden which this has placed on African countries," stating that "measures would have to be taken," again no commitment to concrete action emerged.

Given adequate funding, the question remains, would the U.N. plan work? Will the money and programmes which result from it reach those most at risk from starvation? Will it reach the millions of small farmers upon whose efforts the graneries of Africa depend?

Most of these farmers are women, and while they receive recognition in the U.N. plan — "primary focus will be on women farmers" — the talk at the special session was of African countries making reforms in their economies that would encourage private investors. But such investors are unlikely to be interested, or indeed wanted, in small-scale African farming where women do most of the work.

African statements generally obscured the fact that it is the neglect of rainfed agriculture which is one of the chief factors behind the present crisis. Increased foreign investment, if directed into conventional channels, is as unlikely to eliminate hunger in the future as it has been in the past.

But, if government ministers are not facing up to the problems there are at least signs that others are. Circulating at the session was an informal paper entitled "For Democracy, Development and Unity," written by 17 eminent Africans including Egyptian Samir Amin, director of the U.N. University's "Afrique avenir" programme, Chen Chinutengwende, a Zimbabwean MP, and Ahmed Ben Salah, secretary-general of the General Worker's Union of Tunisia.

The discussion paper raised the kinds of issues which generally do not see the light of day in international conferences. "Democracy is still absent from everyday life in Africa," it stated, "yet the prerequisitie for improved living standards is the active participation of communities."

By giving people a voice in their nation's politics, democracy can help even the poorest farmers to shape policies, and can lead to resources being used in accordance with people's expressed needs. Unity on the African continent, points out the paper, "can put an end to the enormous wastage of resources which results from fragmentation. Unity, democracy and development constitute the three pillars of African progress."

The U.N. special session — the U.N's first ever on a regional issue — was successful in highlighting at least one of the problems of a continent in crisis. But the success of the recovery plan will depend on more than a doubling of cash commitments.

— Earthscan feature.

Summer-time Sweden casts off the blues of winter

By Andrew Steele
Reuter

STOCKHOLM — Sweden's traditional annual shutdown of industry and commerce during July is under way as millions of holidaymakers head for the countryside and lakes.

Companies routinely shut down for the entire month, causing a sharp decline in industrial production but an enormous rise in staff morale.

This apparent lack of diligence surprises foreign businessmen who find it difficult to believe that industrial giants such as Volvo, Saab-Scania and Asea can forget July.

But far from suffering, most companies are delighted to close down completely. Surveys show that most prefer it.

Attempts by some to stagger the summer break in order to keep production going have ended in failure and most big firms now consider it vital to close for strategic planning and for repair and maintenance work.

"The summer closedown is necessary for us. Our production methods more or less require everybody to be here," a spokesman for carmaker Volvo, Sweden's largest firm, said.

"All stages of production mesh with the others, and if one part goes, so does the rest," he added.

Volvo is one of the firms that flirted with the idea of staggering holidays but eventually gave up because it was not working.

A spokesman for telecommunications giant L.M. Ericsson said the company actually saved money by shutting up shop.

"If we had a staggered holiday, it would cost just as much to keep going, but we would not be able to produce as much as usual," he said.

He added that the July shutdown allowed the firm an unhindered opportunity to get on with repairs, relocation and maintenance without getting in the way of the workers.

Even the Swedish military takes a less rigid view of defence of the realm during the summer, with army, navy and air force working with minimum personnel.

A enraged supreme commander once ordered an investigation when he found a strategically-vital military base had completely closed during July.

"There is no point in denying that this country simply shuts down in July, and as officers are civil servants they are entitled to take their holiday in the summer," a defence staff spokesman told Reuters.

Sweden has always been keen on its holidays. As far back as the 17th century, legislation was passed allowing civil servants a few days off.

The first general legislation came in 1938, when everyone was given the right to two weeks' paid holiday. By 1978, the annual entitlement was five weeks.

The summer holiday has particular importance to inhabitants of northern Europe, and Swedes take the enjoyment of their short but glorious season very seriously.

Life is spent outdoors, preferably fishing, hunting, boating or walking in the forest.

Europe battles the after effects of Chernobyl

By Mark Heinrich
The Associated Press

FRANKFURT, West Germany — More than two months after the Soviet nuclear reactor accident many Europeans still cope with restrictions on their eating habits and are haunted by predictions of increased cancer rates.

The April 26 atomic accident spewed a cloud of fallout over Central and Western Europe. Now that the short-lived radioactive element iodine has dissipated, some researchers are warning about the long-term threat of cesium, which can persist in the environment for decades and is known to cause cancer.

In Britain, more than 2 million sheep grazing in cesium-contaminated pastures have been banned from the market, while West German health authorities advise consumers not to dine on venison or wild mushrooms until further notice.

Soil samples taken in parts of West Germany's Bavaria state in June turned up cesium contamination hundreds of times above normal. Some Bavarian farmers are still keeping livestock indoors, away from radioactive pastures.

West German studies since Chernobyl have consistently found heightened levels of radioactive cesium in game meat, mushrooms, fresh water fish, berry fruits and dairy products such as buttermilk, radiation researchers say.

A June study in East Germany commissioned by West German television found fallout 30-50 times the normal in the Communist nation's north.

Milk and meat samples in the plauen region of southern East Germany exhibited radioactivity 30 to 300 times normal.

Heinz Helmers, an Oldenburg University physicist active in recent soil and produce testing, said cesium levels would have to be thousands of times above normal to pose an "acute" health hazard.

But he added, "over the long term we're going to see thousands of cancer cases in both Germanies that could be traced to Chernobyl."

The Hesse state government has urged Germans to avoid eating too many Greek peaches and apricots because samples had been found tainted with Chernobyl fallout.

Greek Health and Welfare Minister George Gennimatas declared at a news conference last Thursday that new vegetables and fruits were safe and the environment was free of Chernobyl radiation.

But the Greek government still advises vigorous washing of fruits and vegetables and has maintained a warning against drinking fresh goat's milk.

In France, government and private authorities sharply disagree over the impact of Chernobyl. A consumer magazine, *Que Choisir* (what to choose), has accused officials of lying about "the eventual health consequences" of Chernobyl.

In an article entitled "Autopsy of a Lie," the magazine charged that radiation levels measured in Alsace-Lorraine state near the West German border would lead to a rise in thyroid cancer among young children.

French officials were slow to acknowledge that the Chernobyl fallout cloud had passed over the country, and then emphasised that it posed no serious health hazard.

Officials in Soviet-allied East European nations, such as Poland and Czechoslovakia, acknowledge continuing high counts of fallout in game meat and wild berries. But possible long-term medical risks have not been mentioned.

"According to the tests we have carried out on thousands of people we should not expect any genetic effect or increased cancer rate due to the accident," said Tadeusz Rzymkowski, head of Poland's central lab for radiolocial protection.

The British government last Friday lifted a precautionary ban on the movement and slaughter of 550,000 sheep in parts of Wales and north western England dusted by Chernobyl fallout.

But a ban on 2.16 million other British sheep in areas where ground radiation remained high was kept in force.

The British Department of Health and Social Security said in a report on Chernobyl that the nuclear disaster is likely to trigger some increase in cancer deaths over the next half-century.

In Sweden and Finland, health officials have recommended people cut their consumption of certain fresh-water fish to a minimum, while in Austria sheep's cheese is banned from grocery shelves.

Secretive academy off on holiday to decide 1986 Nobel laureate

By Per Isakson
Reuter

STOCKHOLM — The 18 members of the Swedish Academy have gone on vacation, their suitcases stuffed with holiday reading which will determine who wins the world's most coveted cultural award — the Nobel Literature Prize.

At the academy's last meeting at the end of May, its seven-man Nobel committee distributed a secret short list of half a dozen names to their fellow members, Swedish literary sources said.

"The idea is that members would read in while they're away by the sea or in the countryside so that they're sufficiently briefed for the discussions in the autumn," one source said.

Members' holiday reading habits, like all academy proceedings, are shrouded in secrecy. Some place detective novels on their bedside table in case of prying eyes.

Then the hardest part begins — that of choosing a laureate.

At the first Spetember meeting after the recess, tempers often become frayed as the 18 scholars and writers speak on behalf of "their" candidates.

"Sometimes there's been all-out war. You even abuse each other, it's not always nice," one member said.

Dag Hammarskjold, the late U.N. secretary-general and an academy member until his death in 1961, said once that sometimes academicians agreed to vote for candidates put forward by other members in return for their support in another year.

At a secret final meeting in October, the academy — which this year celebrates its 200th anniversary — holds the crucial vote on who should win the prize, whose value last year was 1.8 million crowns ($250,000).

Officially, the academy is united in its choice once the dust settles and the selection process is over. "We sometimes make trade-offs so it is difficult to say how real this unity actually is," influential academician Arthur Lundkvist said.

In 1983, members failed to close ranks behind the decision to award the prize to British novelist William Golding. Lundkvist, then a member of the selection committee, publicly denounced Golding as "a little English phenomenon of no special interest."

Lundkvist's outburst was exceptional, partly because the academy has the power to expel anyone who breaches its hallowed tradition of secrecy.

The six Nobel Prizes, set up by Alfred Nobel, the millionaire inventor of dynamite, are announced in October each year and awarded on December 10.

The 1985 laureate, French avant-garde novelist Claude Simon, had long been a frontrunner among the 150 or so authors nominated annually, according to Swedish literary sources.

The body has often been criticised for neglecting the Third World, and Sture Allen, its permanent secretary, earlier this year told Reuters the academy was seriously investigating authors from developing countries.

His predecessor Lars Gyllensten, at a news conference in April, agreed. "We feel we ought to recognise non-European literatures like those of Asia and Africa."

Speculation that an African could be this year's choice mounted this spring when Lundkvist praised the work of dissident South African poet and novelist Breyten Breytenbach.

Fellow South African Nadine Gordimer and Nigerian author Wole Soyinka have also for several years been touted as possible candidates. But Allen, referring to the academy's oath of secrecy, refused to comment on individual authors.

Kankkunen drives to victory in N. Zealand

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — Juha Kankkunen of Finland tightened his grip on the world drivers' championship when he led the New Zealand International Motor Rally into Auckland Tuesday night.

Kankkunen completed the four-day AWA Clarion event in his turbo-charged Peugeot 1 minute 40 seconds ahead of compatriot Markku Alen. Kankkunen now leads the championship by 44 points.

Alen moved to second in the title race after a gritty performance which faded only at the end.

The lead Lancia driver had little left with which to fight Kankkunen, who took charge on the twisting gravel roads of the King Country and Waikato.

Kankkunen began the final leg in a confident mood and it showed. He took out the opening four special stages — won by 34 seconds — to widen the gap between himself and Alen.

The 27-year-old driver later described his victory as his hardest.

"It was just a couple of seconds difference nearly all the way. (It was) a hell of a fight," he said.

Massimo Biasion of Italy and Mikael Ericsson of Sweden fulfilled their Lancia back-up duties admirably to finish third and fourth respectively.

World champion Timo Salonen drove hard after a lengthy delay on the first day to fill fifth in the second Peugeot.

Neil Allport's sixth placing gave him the honour of being top New Zealander.

England comes alive in third test

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — A devastating spell of spin bowling by Phil Edmonds stopped India's victory charge Tuesday and put England in with a chance of a consolation triumph in the third cricket test at Edgbaston.

India needed 236 for victory but by the tea interval was struggling at 126 for five with Mohammed Azharuddin not out five and Kiran more on nine.

India was on course to complete a 3-0 clean sweep in the series — with opener Sunil Gavaskar scoring his first half century of the series — when Edmonds and fast bowler Neil Foster reduced it from 101 for one to 105 for five.

Earlier, Chetan Sharma claimed the last remaining English wicket as the home side added only four runs to its overnight total of 231 for nine.

Sharma finished with six for 58 to wind up with match figures of ten for 188.

With another convincing victory in their sights, the tourists scored at an impressive rate although they lost opener Krishna Srikkanth for 23 with the score at 58.

Gavaskar continued to attack the bowling and the 100 came up off exactly 100 deliveries before Mohinder Amarnath departed at 101.

Amarnath was caught by wicket-keeper Bruce French off Edmonds for 16.

In his next over, without a further run added to the total, Edmonds struck again. Dilip Vengsarkar was deceived by the spin and edged another catch to the wicket keeper.

Three more runs were added before Gavaskar fenced at a delivery from Foster and French took his third consecutive catch to dismiss the master Indian batsman for 54.

Frenchmen continue to lead Tour de France

EVREUX, France (R) — Frenchman Dominique Gaigne took over from teammate Thierry Marie as overall leader after the fourth stage of the Tour de France cycle classic Monday.

Gaigne earned nine seconds in deductions at the intermediate sprints during the day to take an overall lead of six seconds.

The 243-kilometre stage from Lievin was won by Spaniard Pello Ruiz-Cabestany in a time of six hours 57 minutes and five seconds.

But the hero of the day was Frenchman Regis Simon, who led on his own for 140 kms.

With 80 kms to go, Simon had a lead of 10 and a half minutes, making him overall race leader by more than five minutes.

But after several attacks had failed Spain's Federico Echave broke clear from the main pack and six kms further on he shook off Simon.

Cabestany began a chase which took him past the Frenchman and he quickly joined Echave. As they raced into the final kilometre with the field closing fast, Cabestany made his escape to win by two seconds from Eric Vanderaerden.

Top seeds win in Spain

MADRID (R) — All four top seeds secured berths in the semifinals of the 10th World Basketball Championship Monday with wins over their groups' runners up.

Title-holders the Soviet Union marked their third easy victory in El Ferrol's Group B, overwhelming Isrsel 114-77.

The Russians dominated with a balanced attack in which all 11 players scored, with six reaching double-figure totals.

Star pivot David Robinson came alive Monday, scoring 18 points to lead the Americans to a 81-68 victory over West Germany in Malaga's Group C.

"Robinson's recovery has been fundamental for the team," U.S. coach Lute Olsen said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Pernfors joins Swedish Davis Cup team

STOCKHOLM (R) — Mikael Pernfors, who as an unseeded outsider reached the final of the French Open last month, has been called into Sweden's Davis Cup team in place of the injured Anders Jarryd. Non-playing captain Hans Olsson announced Pernfors' selection Tuesday for the title-holders' quarter-final against Italy in Bastad, Sweden, from July 18-20. Mats Wilander, Joakim Nystrom and Stefan Edberg will be the other three members of the team. Olsson said Jarryd was having a cartilage operation Tuesday and would have to rest until the end of the month.

Poland's Smolarek signs with Frankfurt

FRANKFURT, West Germany (R) — Wlodzimierz Smolarek, who scored Poland's only goal in the World Cup Finals in Mexico, has signed for West German First Division club Eintracht Frankfurt, a club spokesman said Tuesday. He declined to give the terms of the two-year contract signed by Smolarek or the transfer fee paid to the player's Polish club, Widzew Lodz. In Warsaw the sports newspaper Przeglad Sportowy gave the fee as $410,000. Smolarek scored the goal which earned Poland a 1-0 win over Portugal in the first phase of the World Cup Finals.

Becker tired of stardom

LEIMEN, West Germany (R) — A tired Boris Becker skipped an honorary motorcade through his home town Monday and kept several thousand fans waiting for an hour for a glimpse of the teenage tennis millionaire who was twice won Wimbledon.

Becker, looking tired and nervous on his arrival at Frankfurt airport earlier, was reluctant to face the crowd, Leimen's Mayor Herbert Ehrbar said.

"He is not ready physically and emotionally for the limelight," Ehrbar told the restless onlookers.

When the 18-year-old sports hero finally appeared on the balcony of Leimen's Town Hall waving a document which gave him the freedom of Leimen, television crews had already turned off their live-transmission lights, but the crowd quickly forgave the delay and greeted him with cheers.

"I hope I can be back here in 1987 after another Wimbledon victory," the twice All England Lawn Tennis champion said.

Becker beat world number one Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia in straight sets on Sunday to win the title, confounding sceptics who said his sensational 1985 Wimbledon triumph was a flash in the pan.

Becker shrugged off news that the Association of Tennis Professionals in New York had promoted him from sixth to fourth player in the world.

He said the fact that he was now ranked ahead of Americans Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe was not as important as the fact that he was still behind number one Lendl, number two Mats Wilander of Sweden, and number three Yannick Noah of France.

Leimeners put out flags and banners for his homecoming Monday having been assured that Becker would not be going straight to his tax-haven home in Monaco as he did last year.

Becker delayed his triumphal homecoming by five days last year in order to rest at a secluded Mediterranean poolside.

But a Leimen spokesman Monday said Becker's manager Ion Tiriac had promised that his first stop after Wimbledon this year would be his birthplace.

Becker showed the emotional strain of his centre court victory and the subsequent glittering champions dinner at London's Savoy Hotel as soon as he stepped off the plane in Frankfurt to be met by hordes of cameramen and reporters.

"I hope there's less ballyhoo in Leimen," he muttered.

In his short balcony speech, the champion told his home town fans he badly needed a vacation.

He said he would go to his Monaco villa on Wednesday for a few days rest ahead of exhibition games in Mallorca against Emilio Sanchez of Spain and Frenchman Thierry Tulasne.

West German newspapers Monday said Becker had come of age as a sportsman with his second Wimbledon win but noted that his "boy wonder" days had ended and he no longer had what one daily called "The youthful charm of the carefree highflier."

Becker's 1985 win was the first for a German at Wimbledon, where he also entered the record books as the youngest ever champion.

His new triumph, which took his career earnings to more than $1 millon, promises to re-fuel the tennis fever that swept the country in the year he first put Leimen on the map.

Petranoff questions hammer safety

By Neil Oughton
Reuter

HELSINKI — Tom Petranoff, who set a world best with the new "safer" javelin Monday night, believes athletics officials should now look long and hard at safety standards in the hammer.

Petranoff launched the javelin 85.38 metres — the best performance world-wide since the spear's centre of gravity was shifted forward to make it dip earlier in a move aimed at curtailing distances.

But the sports shoe consultant from Illinois said afterwards: "It's not right that they have limited the distances we can get with the javelin. People like to come and see you throw a long way.

"It's not as dangerous as the hammer," he added. "I think they should consider moving that event out of the stadium into a different arena."

Petranoff was talking after seeing Soviet Sergei Litvinov, the world champion, heave the hammer out of the target zone and on to the back straight off the synthetic track three times in quick succession at the World Games Grand Prix meeting.

The first time the potentially lethal weight crashed into advertising hoarding in front of banks of seated spectators while on the second and third occasions it bounced down the rubbery track and through a group of athletes warming up.

Two months ago a Polish official was fatally injured when he was hit on the head by a hammer during an athletics meeting in Poland.

The problem Monday night was that the protective net surrounding the hammer turning circle was not tight enough, allowing Litvinov's wayward efforts to drift left and towards the crowd.

The event was won by two times Olympic champion Yuri Sedykh, who hurled the weight 84.14 metres to win from Litvinov.

The Russian's speed of turn and remarkable consistency — all four of his legitimate efforts thudded around the 84-metre mark — make him the greatest hammer thrower of his generation and possibly of all time.

Sedykh, the 1976 and 1980 Olympic gold medallist will be throwing for a third European title in Stuttgart, West Germany, in August and few would bet against him.

Officials moved to limit javelin distances because the world's best throwers were threatening to launch the spear out of the stadium.

Despite Petranoff's mark Monday night, East German Uwe Hohn remains the official world record holder after throwing the traditional device 104.80 metres two years ago.

Petranoff, himself a former world record holder with the old-style piece of equipment, said the modifications meant competitors on average were throwing about 10 metres shorter.

The world championship silver medallist dominated his event here on a night when field events provided most of the thrills.

Four of his six throws reached the 80 metres mark while only one other competitor, Finland's Seppo Raty, managed a comparable distance. He threw 81.50 metres with his first effort to take second place.

Petranoff's supremacy in the men's event was matched by East German world record holder Petra Felke in the women's competition. She won with 70.06 metres, her fifth throw this year beyond the magical 70 metre barrier.

World champion Tiina Lillak is the only other woman to have bettered 70 metres this season but Monday night she failed to find that sort of form and finished a disappointing third with 62.68 metres.

Action on the track provided limited excitement with Swiss Pierre Deleze stealing the spotlight at the end of the meeting by clocking 13 minutes 15.31 seconds on his 5,000 metres debut — easily the fastest time in the world this year.

Joyner leads Americans in Moscow

By Clare Fallon
Reuter

MOSCOW — Jackie Joyner of the U.S. produced several top personal performances to add 281 points to the world heptathlon record at the Goodwill Games Monday.

But the American team's celebrations were dampened by seeing their best woman hurdler, Judi Brown-King, soundly beaten in a 400 metre event which proved one of the few meetings here so far to pit the cream of East and West talent.

The 24-year-old Joyner, who took the Olympic silver medal for the heptathlon in 1984, needed to clock under two minutes 20 seconds in 800 metres, which marked the end of the two-day competition, to break the record.

Spurred on by a small but supportive crowd, she clocked 2:10.02 to take her final points total to 7,348. The previous record holder, Sabine Paetz of East Germany, amassed 6,867 at Potsdam in May 1984.

Joyner, who is coached by her husband, Bob Percy, said she had concentrated particularly on heptathlon training this year and had set herself high goals for each event.

"I knew if I hit my goals, the results were going to take care of themselves," she said. "I've always felt like running slower in the 800 metres and now I know why — afterwards, it's so painful."

Joyner's results lifted a disappointing day.

World record holder Heike Drechsler failed to appear in the long jump and an anticipated high jump battle between Stefka Kostadinova of Bulgaria and Soviet Tamara Bykova, the present and former world bests, disintegrated when Bykova was unable to clear 1.99 metres.

Olga Turchak of the Soviet Union kept Kostadinova company at 2.01 metres but failed to go any higher and the Bulgarian, whose record stands at 2.08, settled for 2.03 metres to take the gold.

The games were billed as a chance for Soviet and American athletes to meet after boycotts of the last two Olympics, but few events have seen the best performers from both countries.

The 400 metre hurdles matched Brown-King, silver medallist at the 1984 Olympics, against two former record holders from the Soviet Union, Marina Stepanova and Margarita Kharmova.

Brown-King, who turns 25 next week, trailed throughout the race to finish fourth, more than two seconds slower than Stepanova, who took the gold in 53.81 seconds.

Americans took the top two medals in the men's 5,000 metres after a fierce battle for silver and bronze between Terry Brahm of the U.S. and Bulgarian Yevgeny Ignatov. Doug Padilla, overall Grand Prix winner last year, won the gold in 13:46.67.

The women's 10-kilometre walk gave Australia and China their first medals of the games. Kerry Saxby set an Australian record of 45:08.13 to win the gold, comfortably ahead of world junior record holder Gun Ping of China, who took the silver.

In the swimming, American Sean Killion pipped triple Olympic champion Vladimir Salnikov of the Soviet Union in the 400 metre freestyle as the U.S. team swept five of six individual events.

Salnikov, who bettered his own 800 metre world record early in the games and easily won Sunday's 1500 metres.

Angela Myers of the United States, winner of the 50 metres last Friday, claimed her second gold medal of the games with a time of 56.48 seconds in the 100 metre freestyle.

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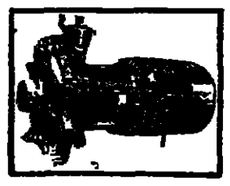

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.5348/58	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3975/4005	Canadian dollars
	2.1750/60	West German marks
	2.4500/10	Dutch guilders
	1.7698/7708	Swiss francs
	44.60/65	Belgian francs
	6.9700/50	French francs
	1492/1493	Italian lire
	160.00/10	Japanese yen
	7.0830/80	Swedish crowns
	7.4515/65	Norwegian crowns
	8.1110/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	346.75/347.15	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Stocks closed sharply lower after a fairly active session following Monday's record 62 point fall on Wall Street but dealers noted little institutional selling.

After a mid-morning rally attempt ran out of steam, prices were marked-down further in the wake of the lower Wall Street opening and at 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 was down 32.0 points at 1,599.0 compared with an opening 1,611.9.

The market showed little or no reaction to news that U.K. sterling M-3 rose 1¼ per cent in June after a three per cent rise in May. The rise was at the top end of expectations, dealers said.

Dealers said despite the money supply and bank lending figures being at the top end of expectations they did not entirely rule out a near term cut in 10 per cent U.K. bank base rates. They are hopeful that a reduction in interest rates by Japan and or the U.S. could prompt a similar move by the U.K. authorities.

Vickers fell 35p to 443 after news it had lost its compensation claim before the European Court of Human Rights for the 1977 nationalisation of its aircraft and shipbuilding interests. A Vickers spokesman said there is no further avenue of appeal in the claim for around £300 million.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until sundown you have a big opportunity to put excitement into whatever your most comprehensive activity is. You will have to exercise patience in the evening.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Put in motion those ideas you have long been toying with. Accept some invitation for amusement.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Please family ties immensely. Invite guests in only during the day hours and tonight finish work.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be active in the outside world and make real progress. Worldly affairs could be disappointing.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Plan how to add to your present abundance. Be sure to take any health treatments you need.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You have excellent ideas for gaining your finest wishes. Forget amusement tonight which could be disappointing.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study how best to go after your secret interests. Not a good evening to entertain in your home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Contact the most generous friend you have and discuss a plan this person will comprehend easily.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Attend those civic affairs that can give you added prestige especially in the community where you dwell.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Look into new outlets and make fascinating new contacts. Be very careful with your driving.

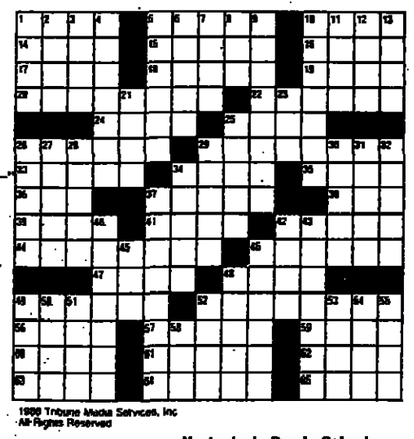
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Contact a clever expert in business and get more modern advice. Avoid one who has a habit of complaining.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get in touch with one who is becoming prominent and form an alliance. Don't go anywhere depressing.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) If you make your surroundings more cheerful and colorful you can enjoy more comfort and relaxation there.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have every ability to become a fine executive, so be sure to give a fine business college education so that the top can be reached in any corporative capacity that is attractive to yur talented progeny. Teach fine manners and be gentle with discipline.

THE Daily Crossword by James E. Hinish, Jr.



ACROSS
1 Mike's arm
5 Siberian antelope
10 Short jacket
14 Part of TAE
15 Improvise
16 "Aeneid" opener
17 Actress Patricia
18 "Most Happy —"
19 Gather
20 Army men
22 Misanthropes
24 Actress Talbot
25 — wolf
26 "I wandered — as cloud"
29 "Trail of the — Pine"
33 Expunge
34 Flag
35 Walked on
36 Hood's gun
37 Bank deals
38 "How — love thee?"
39 Take — it comes
41 Gumbo
42 Manifest
44 — fortune (read the cards)
46 Bowlers' feats
47 Arabian gulf
48 Close tightly
49 Look-alikes
52 Rocky
56 Furnished
57 Malay Archipelago island
58 Hedge with a guardrail
60 Poker money
61 Let — (not to mention)
62 Pianist Peter
63 Lumber
64 Stormed
65 Terminal

DOWN
1 Where judges sit
2 Bread spread
3 Ellipse
4 Actress Dorothy and kin
5 OSHA concern
6 Ms. St. Johns
7 Troubles
8 "— Bias"
9 Sources of -nacre
10 Pledge
11 Bo or baobab
12 Actor Sharif
13 Dozes
21 Long river
23 Undivided
25 Doone or Luft
28 On the up and up
27 Speechify
28 Of birth
29 Story tellers
30 Dictum
31 Actor Roger
32 Redacts
34 Keepsake
37 Texas symbol
40 Blessed
42 Gem
43 Actor Raf —
45 Poem
46 Burst
48 Grind or mill follower
49 Talon
50 Gauzy material
51 Aware of
52 L. A. problem
53 Yoked beasts
54 Wimp's cousin
55 Love god
58 Stevedores' org.

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

C	O	P	S			P	E	A			S	A	R	I
A	P	R	A		C	A	L	L	A		A	L	A	D
S	E	E	R	S	U	C	K	E	R		F	A	Z	E
E	N	S	T	A	R	S		C	A	D	E	N	Z	A
		S	O	I	T			G	A	R				
P	I	A		G	I	G	O	L	O	S		P	A	M
A	N	G	L	O	S	A	X	O	N		D	A	D	O
O	D	E	O	N		Y	E	R		A	I	R	E	S
L	I	N	G		C	L	Y	D	E	S	D	A	L	E
O	A	T		C	H	E	E	S	E	S		P	E	S
		S	H	A				R	U	S	H			
B	A	X	T	E	R	S		F	I	R	E	R	E	D
E	T	R	E		D	E	C	E	L	E	R	A	T	E
E	T	A	L		S	P	R	A	Y		A	S	A	N
F	A	Y	E			T	O	T			C	E	S	T

Insurance rates rise as Gulf war widens

LONDON (R) — Insurance premium for oil tankers in the Middle East Gulf, probably the world's most dangerous shipping route, are on the rise after many months of barely reacting to Iranian and Iraqi attacks, according to London insurance sources.

Brokers and underwriters at Lloyd's, the world's leading marine insurance market, say cut-throat competition for Gulf business has until recently kept rates low despite the unabated intensity and widening geographical area of the war at sea.

But Iranian strikes from a new base and Iraqi attacks on Iranian installations and tankers have, to the relief of leading Lloyd's underwriters, forced war risk premiums sharply higher.

Rates on a $10 million tanker on the run from Iran's Kharg Island terminal to Sirri Island further south are up to $2.5 or $3 million for three months of coverage from $2 million per six months earlier this year.

Iraq is keeping up constant attacks on Kharg and shipping sources have reported at least six recent Iraqi strikes on tankers chartered by Iran to take oil from Kharg to Sirri.

Iran, apparently using a new base on Abu Musa Island, has been striking further and further south and closer to the coastline of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in its attacks on tankers serving Arab states friendly to Iraq.

But despite these attacks, war risk rates are still well below the peaks reached in 1984 when the "tanker war" —which has claimed over 200 ships — broke out.

And although higher premium are being paid inside the waterway, London insurers have offered attractive rates to shipowners using a new oil terminal which Iran has set up at Larak Island near the Gulf's mouth.

Insurance sources said the increase on Kharg to Sirri rates might prompt more shipowners operating the route to seek cover from Tehran rather than London.

Iran reported last month that its main state insurance firm had placed $100 million in a British bank and it was offering insurance on a $10 million tanker using Iranian ports at no more than $1 million per six months.

Iran's attacks have not changed the standard war risk rate of 0.25 per cent — or $25,000 for a $10 million vessel — quoted in London for 14-day voyages to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE. But they have made it harder to obtain discounts below that rate, the insurance sources said.

The war risk insurance market for ships has been in disarray since 1984, when a committee of underwriters which used to set hull premium broke up acrimoniously. Six out of the eight members resigned because of a dispute over whether or not to quadruple the basic annual rate paid for worldwide war risks. The proposed quadrupling never took place.

Because of the continuing lack of coordination, a move by some underwriters in May to raise the war risk premiums for Arab ports in the Gulf by half, to 0.375 per cent, collapsed within 48 hours. Too many people were undercutting it.

Brokers who specialise in war risk may quote a first time inquirer a rate of 0.5 per cent for a single voyage to Kuwait. But in early June a Greek owner found insurance in London for a trip to that country at just 0.125 per cent of his ship's value.

Only in the last few weeks, with some reinsurance arrangements through which insurers spread their risk among colleagues coming up for renewal, have underwriters begun to feel that what they consider more realistic rates are emerging.

"The price-cutters cannot continue for much longer. They will not be able to obtain any more reinsurance," commented a source at one of the leading Lloyd's syndicates in which rich individuals back insurance policies with their personal assets.

Insurance sources say one Lloyd's underwriter, in a move that could lead to a dispute with brokers, wants to withdraw from war risk cover ahead of normal renewal time. This could be a symptom of wider disenchantment with low rates, they say.

While rates for tankers are firming, there is no visible sign of higher premiums on cargoes carried in the Gulf. The committee that governs cargo rates is silent about its internal discussions, but its most recent decisions have reduced minimum rates for certain areas, suggesting competition in this sector is intense.

The wave of attacks in the southern Gulf has prompted no change. One reason for this, the sources say, is that while recent attacks badly damaged many tankers, they left cargoes mainly intact.

EC reaches agreement on new 1986 budget

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) treasury ministers reached agreement Tuesday on a new 1986 budget in the first important move towards averting a cash crisis in the 12-nation group, diplomats said.

The accord, which came after 18 hours of negotiations, balances increases in spending on farm subsidies with those for regional and social expenditure and thus appears to satisfy a major demand of the European Parliament, they said.

The parliament must approve the budget this week before it rises for the summer recess if the Community is to avoid what Budget Commissioner Henning Christophersen has said would be its worst budget crisis.

The diplomats said the new budget was agreed unanimously.

World Bank bombards agricultural management in developing nations

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank said Monday sustained growth is possible in the global economy but will require a broad commitment on the part of both industrial and developing countries.

The bank, in its annual development report, called on rich and poor countries to reform their economies while opposing growing pressures to build trade barriers.

The report concentrated on an analysis of international farm policies, focussing on the economic treatment of farmers in the developing world.

"What is perhaps most surprising, is the fact that it is the developing world which, on the whole, discriminates against its farmers, even though they account for large shares of gross domestic product and export earnings," it said.

"It is industrial countries which provide subsidies to agricultural production, even though their farmers account for small shares of GDP (gross domestic product) and employment," it said.

The report said recent declines in interest rates and oil prices have provided a much-needed stimulus for the world economy, but a number of policy reforms are necessary to take advantage of this improved picture.

It also made clear that some countries, particularly those in sub-Sahara Africa and the heavily indebted oil exporters, face a very difficult time in the period ahead.

But the report said "slower growth in world trade, weak export prices, and the continued decline of net capital inflows confront all developing countries."

The report presents two possible economic scenarios for the world economy depending on what steps countries take to improve their underlying structures in the decade ahead.

First, the so-called high case, sees gross domestic product, an overall economic measurement, increasing 4.3 per cent annually for industrial countries and 5.9 per cent for developing countries.

In the low case scenario, growth in industrial countries increases by 2.5 per cent annually and developing countries by 4.0 per cent.

The bank said the steps necessary to achieve the high case growth rates for industrial countries include stable monetary and fiscal policies, reduction of price distortions and introducing more flexibility into labour markets.

There has been criticism that European countries have not encouraged flexibility in the employment markets and workers have not adapted to changes in needed skills.

The report said there must be a major effort at reducing trade restrictions so that world trade can increase.

For developing countries, it said policies should be enacted that will increase savings, attract foreign capital and convince nationals to keep their money at home.

The Latin American debt crisis was exacerbated by a flight of capital out of the region to safer investments in Europe and the United States.

"A reversal of capital flight will provide a clear and important signal to foreign investors and commercial banks that the nationals within a country have had their confidence in the economy restored by credible government policies," the bank said.

In addition, it recommended that existing funds in the Third World be used more efficiently to increase productivity.

It also recommended developing countries direct employment efforts to areas where the economy has comparative advantages.

Some Third World countries have been criticised for concentrating their development efforts on prestigious projects such as steel mills rather than in areas where they might be more competitive, such as in agriculture.

The report said many countries that give lip service to agricultural efforts have established a complex set of policies that are strongly biased against agriculture.

Such policies as taxing farmers, subsidising consumers, and putting increased dependence on imported foods are certain to hurt domestic agriculture, the bank said.

"Government interventions at all stages of production, consumption and marketing of agricultural products have resulted in greater inefficiencies and lower output," it said.

Watchgroup finds abuses in Britain's overseas aid

LONDON (R) — Britain wastes millions of pounds in aid to developing countries each year by using it to boost its own exports, according to a report which has been handed over to a parliamentary foreign affairs committee.

Professor Charles Elliot, chairman of the Independent Group on British Aid (IGBA), which includes academics and voluntary agencies who monitor British overseas aid, told Reuters Monday the British government had invested heavily in schemes which boosted exports but did not help people in developing countries.

In a report to the foreign affairs committee last week, the IGBA said Britain had provided money for automatic equipment in a fertilizer plant in Bangalore, India, but it led to workers losing their jobs, while 50 buses sent to Zambia had fallen apart after one year, despite warnings they might be unsuitable for Zambia's roads.

Professor Elliot said that under the aid trade provision, which helps British companies win contracts abroad, Britain had provided Mexico with equipment worth £35 million ($50 million) for a steel mill which was never built because the Mexican government ran out of finance.

"This money should be going towards development in the Third World. Instead it is going towards British industry," said IGBA Secretary John Clark, who estimated aid trade provision at about £60 million ($90 million) a year.

Sweden plans to restrict benefits to top executives

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden plans to limit the right of companies to distribute shares to executives following a public inquiry into a secret stock issue that benefited some of the top names in industry.

Acting Finance Minister Bengt Johansson said Monday he expected the government to propose new legislation this autumn to regulate such deals. He stressed it was necessary to ensure that all shareholders were treated equally.

The issuing of shares at below market prices to staff, particularly as an incentive for senior executives, is widespread in Sweden. There were 164 such issues for a total of seven billion crowns ($1 billion) in 1984 and 1985.

But disclosures that leading businessmen, including Volvo Chairman Pehr Gyllenhammar, had benefitted from a restricted issue of shares in the pharmaceutical firm Leo led to a public uproar and the government appointed an inquiry last year.

In a 138-page report, the five-man commission of inquiry Monday criticised the deal, saying other shareholders had not been duly informed. It described as "dubious" the decision to restrict the stock issue mainly to managers in the companies involved.

Major shipping firm puts 3 yards into receivership

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — Harmstorf, one of West Germany's major shipping groups, put its three shipyards into receivership Monday a spokesman said, highlighting the desperate financial state of the country's shipping industry.

Flensburger Schiffbau-Gesellschaft, Schlichting Werft in Travemuende and Buesumer Werft went into receivership Monday morning, he said. Harmstorf is West Germany's fourth largest shipping groups.

"This step has become inevitable, due to the group's desperate financial situation, a continuation of the group as a whole is impossible because of dramatically worsened market conditions," he said.

The company said it was trying to save most of the group's 3,000 jobs. Industry sources, however, said that Harmstorf will probably have to lay off its entire workforce.

The spokesman said the group's shipping companies C. Fr. Duncker, Ludwig Dittmers, A.F. Harmstorf, International Transport Management Beerederungs and its shipping lines Hamburg West-Afrika, America-Africa Line, Break Bulk Container Line would also go into receivership.

W. German court convicts banker for breach of trust

FRANKFURT (R) — A West German court Monday sentenced former private banker Count Ferdinand Von Galen to 45 months in jail for serious breach of trust in the country's second largest bank failure.

Presiding Judge Gernot Bockelmann said Count Von Galen's neglect of his duties caused some of his partners in the once prestigious private bank Schroeder, Muenchmeyer, Hengst und Co (SMH) damage of some 50 million marks ($23 million).

Count Von Galen, 50, was a senior partner in SMH, which had to be saved by a consortium of West German banks when it was found over-exposed to the now-bankrupt construction equipment group IBH Holding A.G. in November 1983. The rescue cost some 700 million marks ($323 million).

Last week, the prosecution dropped further charges of fraud against SMH creditor banks after Count Von Galen had admitted breach of trust.

The sentence will come into force next Monday. Count Von Galen already served 15 months in custody before being released on 10 million marks ($4.6 million) bail in March. The period will be counted against his sentence.

Judge Bockelmann blamed Count Von Galen for delaying appropriate action when the risks of the IBH credits began to endanger the very existence of SMH in the first half of 1983 and for continuing business as usual when the bank could have been saved without loss of capital to its partners.

Peanuts

Mutt 'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

THE BETTER HALF® By Harris

"I learned something at work today. Never use the copying machine right after lunch when you're feeling sleepy."

JUMBLE® THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

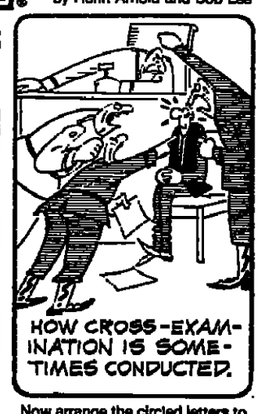
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ALVIA

YARRT

MOBERY

TOATER



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: BY & (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BEGUN PHONY HANSOM ARCTIC
Answer: Some men make money without working for it from suckers who want to do this— THE SAME THING

Howe: S. Africa accepts 'moving away from apartheid'

LONDON (Agencies) — Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, heading to Zambia and Zimbabwe on a South African peace mission Tuesday, said Pretoria accepts that it must "move away from apartheid."

South Africa has tried to implement some of the reforms demanded by the outside world, he said.

Striking a conciliatory note in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC), Sir Geoffrey dismissed the opposition Labour Party's claim that South African President P.W. Botha had snubbed him by refusing to receive him this week.

Asked whether such treatment of a British foreign secretary was unusual, he replied: "Almost everything about the tragedy of South Africa is bound to be unusual. It is a story that has been unfolding for many years along a path that most people deeply regret. We are anxious to see it changed."

Sir. Geoffrey, who was mandated by the 12-nation European Community to try and set up talks between black and white leaders in South Africa, flew to Strasbourg, France, to address the European Parliament as chairman of the EC Foreign Ministers' council.

He was to fly to Zambia from Paris later, and then to Zimbabwe. The two countries belong to the "front-line states" which have the biggest stake in a settlement of the South Africa crisis.

Sir Geoffrey had also wanted to visit South Africa this week, but was told Mr. Botha had no time to see him. Several black leaders said his mission was pointless.

Sir Geoffrey says Pretoria has assured him he will see Mr. Botha if he comes later this month.

Sir Geoffrey said: "There have been changes in the last year or two. The South African government has recognised the need to move away from apartheid and has come some way to meeting the views of the rest of the world."

Criticising opposition foreign affairs spokesman Denis Healey, who has just visited South Africa, Sir Geoffrey said: "In a situation with historic roots as deep as that, for people like Denis Healey to prance up and down from day to day throwing epithets around the place is a profoundly unconstructive role for an opposition in this country," he said.

Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, told the BBC she expected little to come of Sir Geoffrey's visit.

Three lawmakers of Sir Geoffrey's Conservative Party, who are campaigning for reform in South Africa, cabled Mrs. Mandela, Bishop Desmond Tutu and the Rev. Allan Boesak urging them to meet with Sir Geoffrey.

All have said they will not see him, because Britain refuses to back tougher economic sanctions against South Africa.

Lawmaker Robert Adley said: "As a group who share the aspirations of the black population we feel it would be in their own interests to meet the foreign secretary."

In a separate BBC interview on Monday, Sir Geoffrey said that in Zambia and Zimbabwe he hoped to meet leaders of the African National Congress, the outlawed South African guerrilla movement, and would stress to them that dialogue with Pretoria was preferable to violence.

"I shall be seeing if it is possible to pave the way for a dialogue of that kind," he said.

Mr. Healey told the House of Commons on Monday that visiting South Africa would have been fruitless because Bishop Tutu had refused to meet Sir Geoffrey and the Pretoria government had given him " a humiliating snub."

Sakharov-Mandela swap

Meanwhile the West German newspaper Bild said Tuesday that Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov and jailed South African black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela would be freed in the autumn as part of an East-West prisoner exchange.

"According to Bild information, Washington and Moscow have agreed on this and on an East-West exchange of agents," the newspaper said. It named no sources for the report.

Bild said French President Francois Mitterrand, who arrived in Moscow Tuesday for talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev after seeing President Ronald Reagan in Washington, would go over the details of the arrangement.

It said the release of Mr. Mandela against that of Dr. Sakharov and his wife Yelena Bonner, in internal exile in the Soviet city of Gorky, would take place before the next summit meeting between Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev, tentatively proposed for later this year.

West Germany said Tuesday it knew nothing about a reported plan to free banished Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov and jailed South African black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela as part of an East-West prisoner swap.

"We know nothing about an exchange of prisoners to include Sakharov and Mandela," a spokesman for the Inter-German Affairs Ministry said.

Police disperse Marcos supporters

MANILA (R) — Police fired shots into the air Tuesday to disperse about 300 demonstrators who tried to re-enter a luxury Manila hotel occupied until this morning by supporters of ousted President Ferdinand Marcos.

A police spokesman said one man was arrested when he and others fought policemen with rocks and bottles outside the Manila hotel where former Foreign Minister Arturo Tolentino launched a coup attempt on Sunday in the name of Marcos.

Police fired in the air when the pro-Marcos demonstrators tried to enter the hotel. Riot police and security staff forced the crowd back and the spokesman said no casualties were reported.

Government troops surrounded the hotel after Mr. Tolentino took it over on Sunday with several generals, almost 400 soldiers and about 100 civilians.

About 200 of the soldiers gave up at dawn Monday and the rest of the rebels left the hotel before 6 a.m. Tuesday — a deadline for surrender set by Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile.

Justice Minister Neptali Gonzales said government lawyers were gathering evidence against Mr. Tolentino and the others to back charges of sedition "because these were our instructions and it is our duty, unless we are stopped."

Mr. Tolentino and three of the generals who supported the rebellion met government representatives at navy headquarters in central Manila. But they refused to talk to reporters about the outcome of the talks.

"There are no demands from both sides," a member of Mr. Tolentino's party told reporters. "We talked about what's best for the country."

No arrests were made after the coup attempt. Mr. Tolentino, at least five generals and several members of Marcos' New Society Movement (KBL) who took part in the rebellion, have been allowed to move around without restrictions.

President Corazon Aquino, who came to power in February when a military-led revolt ousted Marcos, said she wanted to show leniency and would not want "to make a martyr out of him (Tolentino)."

Alternative water supply system built for Kiev

MOSCOW (R) — An alternative water system has begun delivering water to Kiev as a preventive measure following the Chernobyl nuclear accident, the Soviet News Agency TASS reported Tuesday.

Tass said a new pumping station had been built on a swamp to take water to Kiev from the Desna River, a tributary of the Dnieper which flows through the city and supplies almost half its drinking water.

It quoted Ukrainian Minister of Special Construction Works Vladimir Borisovsky as saying water from the Dnieper was still meeting all health norms following the April 26 accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, 130 kilometres north of Kiev.

"But in connection with the Chernobyl accident a danger arose of radioactive substances getting into the Dnieper," the minister said.

Chernobyl lies at the north west corner of the Kiev Reservoir, which is fed by the Dnieper. The Desna joins the Dnieper south of that part of the reservoir as it enters the northern outskirts of the Ukrainian capital.

Describing further preventive measures taken in the Kiev area, TASS said artesian wells had been drilled at all bread and milk factories in the city.

The factories were now only using water from the wells, which were among 58 planned for the region, it said.

"Construction workers in the region of the Chernobyl power plant face a difficult task," TASS added, describing their efforts to "intercept" underground waters south of the reactor.

It said 73 bore-holes were being drilled as part of a plan to divert this water to prevent its contamination by nuclear radiation.

Soviet officials previously cautioned residents of Kiev against the danger of radioactive dust in the area, but they have maintained that the city's water was safe to drink.

One month ago the government newspaper Izvestia quoted a Ukrainian health official as saying samples of water in Kiev confirmed that radioactive contamination was decreasing.

Tuesday's TASS report quoted Mr. Borisovsky as saying water contamination levels were constantly under control but gave no indication whether the downward trend was continuing.

On Monday a Soviet nuclear energy specialist suggested that data on the causes of nuclear accidents be used to develop a new generation of safe power reactors.

Mikhail Ryzhov, a member of the Soviet delegation to the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said members should give the agency information on the causes and consequences of nuclear accidents and on measures taken.

"These data will become the basis for engineering solutions for a future generation of nuclear reactors," he told TASS.

COLUMN

Man bellies 15.5 hot dogs for title

NEW YORK (R) — Twenty-four men have bellied up to a hot dog-covered table Sunday for the 70th annual Nathan's Famous Eating Contest — and Mark Heller walked away with a little more belly than the rest. Heller, a 245-pound Manhattan resident, sucked down 15½ hot dogs in 10 minutes in the contest at the landmark Coney Island restaurant. Heller easily outdistanced the runner-up, Robert Gerber, who wolfed down 13. "I feel fine. Just great, actually," Heller said shortly after his victory. "It was frantic, stuffing those hot dogs in my mouth, but I wanted to win. It was great." Despite his hot dogging, Heller came up short of the all-time record in the competition, which began in 1916. Walter Paul's 17-dog face-stuffing in 1978 is the mark to beat. But Heller's dog-eating display did earn him a plaque commemorating the victory and a one-year supply of hot dogs — a prize he won't mind waiting a few days to collect.

Indonesia: Sunken ship's treasure was stolen

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia says an 18th century sunken ship's treasure auctioned in Amsterdam for $15 million was recently stolen from its territorial waters and it is taking steps to prevent similar piracy. The government is trying to find out how a group of Western treasure hunters left the country with 150,000 pieces of Ching Dynasty porcelain and 225 gold bars sold at the Christie's Auction, Antara News Agency reported. The treasure was salvaged from the Dutch East Indies Company schooner Geldermalsen which sank near the Malacca Straits in 1752. The 15-month operation that began in early 1985 involved Britons, Singaporeans and a West German. The widely-publicised auction provoked an outcry in Indonesia, which claims the treasure is part of its cultural heritage. The Geldermalsen was sailing from Nanking to Holland, with stops in Goa, Canton, and Batavia. It sank on Jan. 3, 1752, with the loss of 80 lives but the porcelain, made for the European market, survived by being packed in the tea cargo.

Man cuts son's head to appease gods

NEW DELHI (AP) — A 35-year-old man chopped off the head of his only son with an ax in the belief that the sacrifice would bring peace and happiness to the world, police said Tuesday. Mange Ram, a mason, was arrested Monday night in a city park as he prayed near the body of his 8-year-old son Ram Sewak. Police said he was charged with murder. They said Ram told them he believed Hindu gods and goddesses would be pleased with the sacrifice, bring the boy back to life and grant the world peace and happiness. Ram also has two daughters, the police said.

McDonald's to list fast-food ingredients

CHICAGO (AP) — McDonald's, which has served billions of hamburgers, says it will soon distribute 750,000 booklets listing ingredients and calories of its fast food. The company has spent more than $1 million researching and developing the 37-page booklet McDonald's Food: The Facts, Ed Rensi, president of McDonald's USA, said Monday. It says McDonald's uses 100 per cent beef in its burgers with "no additives, no fillers, no extenders." The booklet will list such things as the calories in the hamburger's sauce — 126 — and note that the sauce is made from soybean oil, chopped pickle, sugar, venegar, egg yolk, water, dehydrated onions and garlic, mustard flour, salt, xanthan gum, oleoresin paprika, hydrolysed vegetable protein, spice and natural flavour.

Elderly widow raped at husband's grave

DALLAS (R) — A 70-year-old widow visiting a Dallas cemetery to pay her respects to her husband was raped and robbed of $7, police has said. Police investigator Carolyn Hovey said the woman was attacked and beaten at Calvary Hill Cemetery after a young man demanded money from her. The widow told police the man pushed her on the ground behind a tombstone and raped her, then fled with the woman's purse. Hovey said police were searching for the suspect.

New Zealanders angry over Rainbow settlement

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealanders reacted angrily Tuesday to the United Nations-sponsored settlement of the Rainbow Warrior affair and Prime Minister David Lange was accused of accepting a humiliating trade-off.

Opposition politicians and the country's biggest and most influential newspaper slammed the settlement under which two French agents will be deported to a remote French Pacific military base in return for an apology and seven million dollars' compensation.

The settlement was designed to end the dispute that has badly soured Wellington-Paris relations since France admitted ordering its agents to sink the Greenpeace protest ship a year ago in an action that killed a crew member.

Tuesday's reaction suggested the settlement might have turned an international political problem into a domestic one for Mr. Lange, who had insisted the agents would not be deported early or released to freedom.

Auckland's New Zealand Herald newspaper labelled the settlement a "sordid transaction" that would stand as a "contemptible episode" in the country's history.

In a slashing attack, the paper said: "It is now clear that any nation big enough and unscrupulous enough can send agents to New Zealand, wreak havoc, kill people, and then with a bit of arm-twisting and a cash sweetener, have this gutless government kick the courts in the teeth and dump all the police work in the garbage."

Mr. Lange defended his acceptance of the ruling by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

He told parliament during a rowdy snap debate that his government had kept to its commitment and done nothing to undermine the rule of law in his country.

"We have kept within the structure of the New Zealand legal system," he declared.

The two agents, Dominique Prieur and Alain Mafart, would not be released to freedom but to a prison without bars on the tiny South Pacific atoll of Hao, he said. There would be no opportunity for France to give them a heroes' welcome.

In turn, New Zealand had created diplomatic history by securing "an abject apology."

"This is a watershed in international relations," he said.

Many other New Zealanders appeared less impressed.

A builder, working in a city office block and listening to the debate on the radio, said simply: "How gullible do they think we are."

The remark seemed to sum up initial reaction to the deal on an affair that had put the normally isolated country under an international media spotlight.

Evening papers headlined "Paris rejoices" and opposition politicians accused Mr. Lange of releasing the two agents from a minimum of five years in New Zealand jails to the good life on a sun-kissed south seas isle.

Hao atoll, the tiny South Pacific territory where the two French secret service agents now in a New Zealand prison are to be assigned for three years, has an open-air cinema, bars and a night club, according to a French airman who spent two years there.

"Life is pleasant, there are lots of sports to practise — sailing and diving in the lagoon — and the officers' houses are particularly comfortable," said the airman, who asked not to be identified.

Nicaraguan opposition parties call for peace

MANAGUA (R) — A group of Nicaraguan opposition parties have called for the creation of a peace commission to try to negotiate a ceasefire between U.S.-backed rebels and government forces.

In a document issued at a news conference Monday, the six parties also urged the government to reinstate a top-ranking Catholic bishop expelled from the country last week and to reopen the opposition La Prensa newspaper.

"It is an error of the government of President Ortega to shield itself behind measures that further restrict civil liberties," the statement said.

"The vicious circle of violence in which we Nicaraguans are immersed... if not overcome, will lead us to a disaster of unforeseeable proportions," the statement said.

It said approval by the U.S. House of Representatives of $100 million in aid for anti-Sandinista rebels and the Nicaragua government's avowed crackdown on opposition groups in response would only bring more suffering to the Nicaraguan people.

The political parties called for the formation of "a national pluralist and representative peace commission that can immediately begin efforts at implementing a ceasefire," the statement added.

Nicaragua's ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) has ruled out talks with the contras, favouring a direct dialogue with Washington, without whose support, it argues, the contras would cease to exist.

Virgilio Godoy of the Liberal Independent Party proposed what he called a "civic dialogue" between the opposition parties and the FSLN and made no mention of talks with the insurgents.

Afghan party reportedly hit by internal fighting

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Afghanistan's ruling Communist Party is still deeply divided over the appointment of new leader Najibullah, and rival party factions appear to be behind bombing attacks and street battles in Kabul, sources said Tuesday.

The Western diplomatic sources, speaking on condition they not be identified further, said there had been a wave of explosions in the Afghan capital in the past week that appeared to be linked to factional party fighting.

There were loud blasts last Thursday, Friday and Saturday followed by the sound of machine gun fire, they said.

Twenty minutes of gunfire erupted in the heart of the city Saturday night outside the Ariana Hotel, which is frequently used for Communist Party and government events, the sources said.

Information from Kabul suggested the fighting was linked to party disputes rather than normal clashes between security forces and anti-government guerrillas, they said without providing further detail.

The diplomatic sources also reported scattered fighting around Afghanistan and confirmed earlier guerrilla claims of recent heavy fighting in the western city of Herat.

Gandhi's Punjab peace plan appears in tatters

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's hopes of pushing through his year-old peace plan for Punjab appeared in tatters Tuesday after the state government again rebuffed his efforts to arrange a crucial land swap.

Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala Monday night told the head of a government commission set up to finalise the deal with neighbouring Haryana state that his government stood by a decision to boycott the panel.

The commission, headed by retired Chief Justice D.A. Desai, was appointed by Mr. Gandhi last month to make final arrangements for Punjab to give Haryana 70,000 acres in exchange for sole use of Chandigarh, the capital they have shared for 20 years.

Transferring Chandigarh to Punjab is a key plank of a pact Mr. Gandhi signed with Sikh moderates last year to defuse a violent extremist campaign for an independent Sikh nation.

Mr. Gandhi's July 15 deadline for the swap — the third he has set this year — appeared unworkable after Mr. Barnala told Mr. Desai his government would not accept the commission's jurisdiction.

He said it would neither help the commission select the 70,000 acres to be exchanged nor accept its ruling on them.

The two states missed earlier deadlines set by Mr. Gandhi on Jan. 26 and June 21. Each time the failure to transfer Chandigarh heightened tension in Punjab and led to an upsurge of extremist killings.

Some 430 people have died in the violence this year and hundreds of Hindu families have fled the Sikh-majority state.

Bangladesh to appoint new cabinet today

DHAKA, Bangladesh (Agencies) — A new cabinet is to be sworn in Wednesday, one day before the scheduled opening of Bangladesh's newly elected parliament.

A senior leader of the government's Jatiya Party, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press that President Hussain Mohammad Ershad will appoint Telecommunications Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury as prime minister.

Most of the present ministers, including Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, will remain in the new cabinet, but four of the five top armed forces generals will be dropped, the leader said.

Communications Minister Maudud Ahmad, Commerce Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmad and Health and Education Minister Dr. Abdul Matin will be made deputy prime ministers, the leader said.

Navy Chief Rear Adm. Sultan Ahmad and Air Force Chief Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud will continue as deputy chief martial law administrators until martial law is withdrawn, he added.

Gen. Ershad, who is the chief martial law administrator, has said he will lift the now 4-year-old martial law after presidential elections, for which a date has not yet been set.

The opposition has threatened to boycott the parliamentary session opening Thursday unless martial law is lifted at the time of the opening session.

Meanwhile Bangladeshi military commanders and civil officials held an emergency meeting Monday to discuss ways to stem tribal rebellion in the southern Chittagong Hill Tracts region after guerrillas killed a settler and kidnapped two forest rangers on Saturday.

The official BSS news agency said Maj. Gen. Abdus Samad, commander of the Chittagong army garrison, presided over the meeting which "assessed the situation obtaining in the region and gave some instructions." It gave no details.

But officials at the hill tracts headquarters of Rangamati told Reuters the meeting was called in the wake of stepped up Shanti Bahini (peace force) activities causing widespread panic among settlers.

At least 320 people have been killed and 400 wounded, mostly settlers, since May in clashes between the insurgents and Bengali-speaking Muslims resettled in the region under a government plan to ease overcrowding on the plains.

Shanti Bahini, drawn from nearly 30 tribes, took up arms in the early 1970s after the government refused to grant autonomy to the 13,000 square kilometre mountainous forest region bordering India and Burma. The rebels say the resettlement scheme is a plot to steal their land.

Red Cross says tests have nearly stopped AIDS in blood

WASHINGTON (AP) — Results of the first year of screening blood supplies for signs of AIDS indicate it has almost stopped the spread of the disease in the United States through transfusions.

But experts say more precise tests are still needed.

Because of the tests, which look for evidence of antibodies to the virus which causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and screening out high-risk donors, blood supplies are much safer than they were a year ago, specialists said Monday.

"The tests have performed remarkably well," said Dr. S. Gerald Sandler of the American Red Cross. "In a short time, we were able to halt the spread of the AIDS virus through blood supplies."

However, Sandler and other specialists told a panel of experts convened at the National Institutes of Health that despite the positive results achieved by the first-generation tests, more precise methods were needed to screen blood donors.

After considering the latest information on AIDS blood testing, the panel is to draft recommendations on how to properly use and interpret the tests, as well as on future directions of research into better tests.

About 2 per cent of AIDS cases have been associated with transfusions of blood and blood products contaminated with the AIDS virus. While screening has markedly reduced chances of getting infected blood today, federal health authorities say the numbers of transfusion-related cases are expected to rise for several years because of blood received before there was routine testing.

Dr. Joseph R. Bove of Yale University Medical School said more than 20 million tests had been run on donated blood since the spring of 1985, when the first tests were approved for use.

There first-generation tests do not detect the AIDS virus itself but only indirect evidence of infection, and they are not as precise as health authorities would like. Nevertheless, they have been a big help, Dr. Bove said.

Other experts testified that all seven tests now licensed are so sensitive to detecting AIDS virus antibodies that there are extremely few false negative readings, meaning a contaminated sample gets by undetected.

Scientists ready for return to Titanic

WOODS HOLE, Massachusetts (AP) — Nearly 200 scientists and seamen are readying U.S. Navy ships for a return to the wreck of the Titanic, the gravesite of 1,513 people who went down with the ocean liner 74 years ago.

The expedition leaves Wednesday for the spot about 560 nautical miles off Newfoundland where a team of U.S. and French researchers found the sunken liner last September, said Cmdr. Mark Neuhardt of the Navy Office of Information.

He said Monday that scientists at the Woods Hole oceanographic institution have invited Navy Secretary John Lehman and other top brass on the three-week trip, whose $220,000 bill will be footed by the navy.

"He would like to accommodate the request if logistics are feasible and if his schedule could accommodate it," Neuhardt said. "However, no commitment has been made at this time."

Woods Hole researchers planned tours of the Atlantis II, the navy research ship that will carry 28 scientists, an equal number of crewmembers, and state-of-the-art diving equipment on the expedition.

Neuhardt said the navy submarine-rescue ship Ortolan, carrying 109 enlisted men and six officers, will leave Boston to rendezvous Sunday at the site of the wreck, whose exact location has been kept secret since last year's expedition, to protect the luxury liner from treasure seekers.

The purpose of the return trip is to test to prototype of the Jason, a small robot under development by the private institution for the navy.

The Jason Jr., controlled by the three-man submarine Alvin, will be "flown" close to the Titanic to test its cameras and manoeuverability.

The Alvin will make daily trips to the wreck for two weeks and may send the Jason Jr. inside the Titanic, said Woods Hole spokeswoman Anne Rabushka. The Alvin needs at least two hours to reach the liner 13,000 feet (4,000 metres) beneath the surface.

The only person repeating the journey to the Titanic is Robert Ballard, the chief scientist who led the first expedition. Veterans of last year's trip were kept behind to give other people a chance to see the liner, Ms. Rabushka said.

The discovery of the Titanic fulfilled the lifelong dream of Ballard and former Titanic Historic Society President William H. Tatum IV, Ballard's close friend.

The Titanic, touted as unsinkable, rammed an iceberg and went down on April 15, 1912, during its maiden voyage. There were 705 survivors, mostly women and children.

The British steamer was spotted sitting upright on the ocean bottom last September by the Argo, an automobile-sized submarine developed by Ballard.

The Argo, rigged with sonar and video equipment, was undergoing sea trials when it found the wreck. The Jason, when complete, will fit inside the Argo and emerge to take close-up pictures with video cameras and samples with two mechanical arms.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill in December instructing the State Department to negotiate with Great Britain, France, Canada and other nations an agreement declaring the site an international marine memorial.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

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DON'T BE CHEAP

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 7 5 4
♡ K 8
◇ J 6 4 3
♣ A 7 4

WEST
♠ Q 8 6
♡ J 10 9 7 4
◇ K 10 8
♣ K 5

EAST
♠ J
♡ Q 5 3 2
◇ Q 9 2
♣ Q J 10 8 3

SOUTH
♠ A K 9 3 2
♡ A 6
◇ A 7 5
♣ 9 6 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Jack of ♡.

Games and slams attract the most attention at large tournaments. As a result, many a rose is born to blush unseen. However, here's one that was brought to our attention.

After a routine opening bid and raise, South was on the borderline of a game try, but he decided that his partner would have many more hands where three spades was in jeopardy than where four spades would be a reasonable proposition.

His judgment was more than vindicated – two spades was the limit of the hand unless the defense helped.

Declarer won the opening lead in hand and cashed the ace-king of trumps. He was delighted to see East's eight of clubs on the second round – it meant that the overbidders who reached game were doomed to defeat. He crossed to the king of hearts and ducked a diamond to West.

The defender won with the eight, cashed the queen of spades and dutifully shifted to the king of clubs. Declarer ducked one round, then won the continuation. He led another diamond and ducked that too. West, in with the ten of diamonds, had no better exit than the king of that suit. Declarer won the ace, entered dummy with a trump and discarded his club loser on the good jack of diamonds. That meant a precious overtrick and a top score at duplicate pairs.

West could have earned an average score had he been a bit more liberal and won the first diamond with the ten! Now, there is no way that declarer can force West to win the second diamond. If he ducks East's nine, West can underplay the eight: if he rises with the ace, West can unblock the king. Either way, East will get to win a diamond trick and he can cash the queen of clubs to hold declarer to his contract.